

2

COPIES
OF
ORIGINAL LETTERS
FROM THE ARMY OF
GENERAL BONAPARTE
IN
EGYPT,
INTERCEPTED
BY THE FLEET
UNDER THE COMMAND OF
ADMIRAL LORD NELSON.

PART THE SECOND.

WITH AN
ENGLISH TRANSLATION.

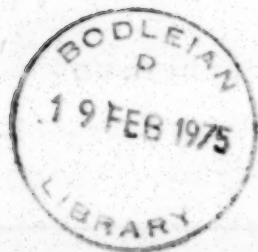
SIXTH EDITION.

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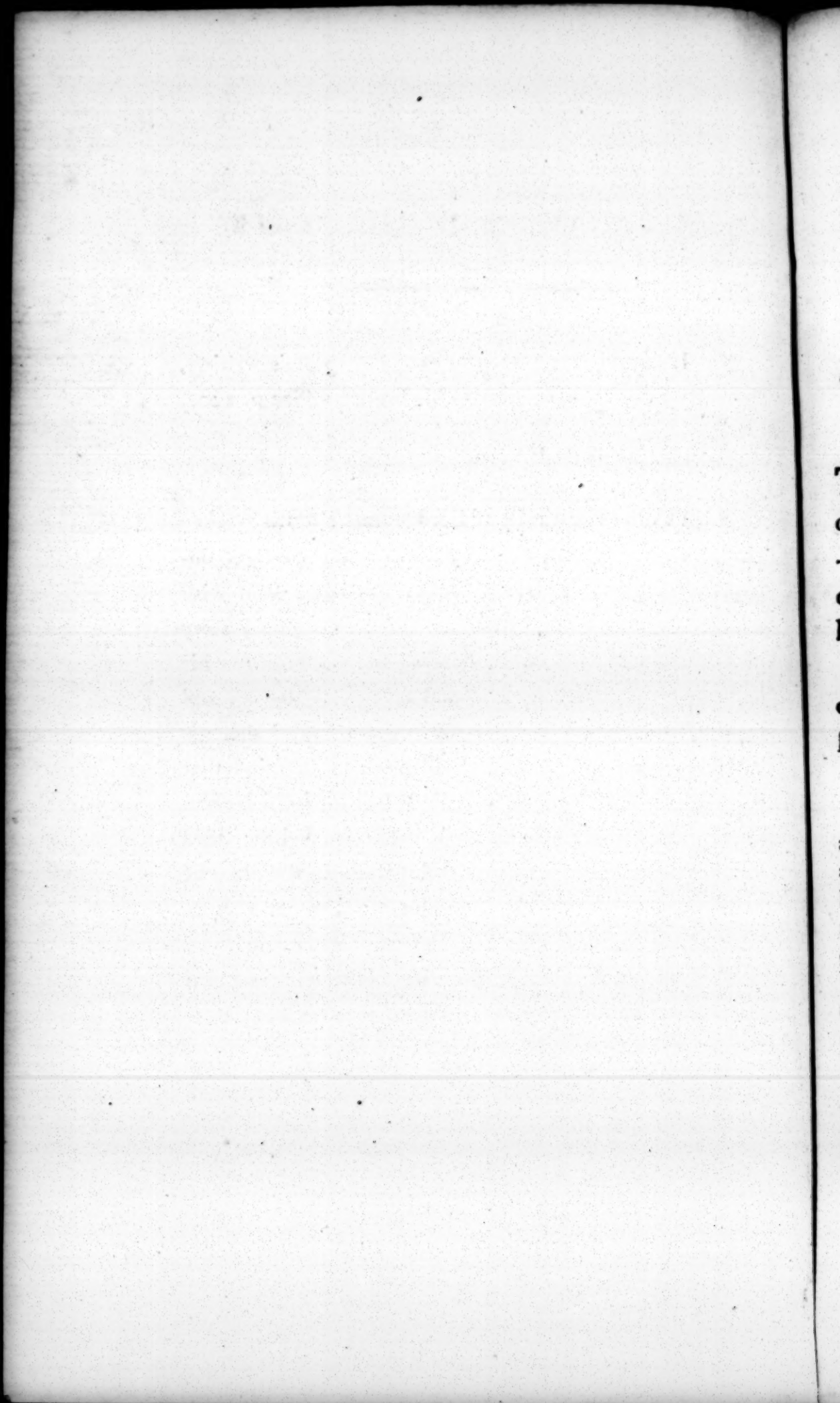
EXPLANATION OF THE PLATE.

No. I. and II. are Fac-similes of Bonaparte's writing, correctly made from a letter to his brother. (See p. 100.)

No. III. is his Seal.

No. IV. is a Fac-simile of Lord Nelson's writing, taken from an indorsement, made by him on the cover of Bonaparte's letter. This, we believe, will be seen with interest by every Englishman. There is a pretty story of a Spartan matron, who, hearing her son grieve at his lameness, occasioned by a wound received in battle, said to him,—“ Do not repine, my son, at your lameness, “ since every step you take, will put you in mind that “ you have done your duty.” We believe Lord Nelson never grieved at his wounds ; but if ever he feel mortified at his writing, his country may put itself in the place of the Spartan matron, and say to him,—“ Do not repine, “ my son, at your writing, since every letter you form “ will put you in mind that you have lost your right arm “ in my service.”

No. V. is a Fac-simile of Berthier's writing.



INTRODUCTION.

THE Public are here presented with a Second Part of the Correspondence of the "Army of the East,"—intercepted, like the first, by the joint vigilance of the Turkish and English governments, and laid before them from the motives already detailed.

The situation of the French troops, so faithfully delineated in the former letters,* their losses by fatigue and sickness, by open and secret warfare ;

* One thing has struck us, in looking over these Letters, as a singularity not easily to be accounted for. It is, that amidst the mass of correspondence which has fallen into our hands at different times, there should not be a single letter, no, not a single line, from any man in the ranks ! the officers only write, the officers only pour out their sufferings and regrets to their friends ; while the men who have been frequently on the point of mutinying, who have suffered hardships which have driven thousands of them to deeds of desperation ; who have been betrayed, and led to disgrace and ruin through intolerable torments, remain wholly silent ! How is this ? are they interdicted from writing, lest they should disclose too much ? Are they—but we can form no satisfactory conjecture on the subject.

their utter incapacity of advancing or retreating, their anguish, their despair, and their piercing exclamations at finding themselves thus blindly driven into the toils; would, we imagined, have convinced the most incredulous, that their dreams of conquest must be over, and that their active operations in future would necessarily be confined to struggling with the mob of Cairo for a wretched morsel of bread, till the periodical return of the endemial diseases should sweep them away for ever.

But we had ill calculated the perverse obstinacy of Jacobinism. The French, and their faithful echos in this country,* still persist in representing

* No point is so clearly ascertained as that the troops left in possession of Alexandria are absolutely without money, and in a condition little short of starving; yet the *Morning Chronicle*, which, with the eyes of a lynx, examines the French papers for consolatory matter respecting the fate of the Egyptian Expedition, has produced the following paragraphs:

“ Alexandria, Nov. 8th.

“ We are very well here, and very tranquil. We have good cheer, and are well paid; besides my pay as a General, I am allowed 1500 franks a month for my table”!!!

Morning Chronicle, Feb. 4.

Bravo! General Manscourt. Now for Bonaparte.

“ Letters from Constantinople confess, at length, that there is no prospect of Buonaparte’s failing in his object of

Bonaparte as triumphant; as now threatening India, now in tranquil possession of Palestine and Syria, and now ready, in the words of that atheistical driveller Volney, “to skirt the north of the Black Sea, and fall like thunder upon the Danube”!

It has been thought expedient, therefore, to have recourse to a second selection of Letters from subsequent captures. These, though not ALL posterior in date to those already published, carry on the awful history of this devoted armament, in so full and explicit a manner, that whatever doubts ignorance, scepticism, and malevolence may henceforth indulge, they will no longer be

“establishing a settlement in Egypt. He is daily more and more consolidating his power, and reconciling the inhabitants to his army. Numbers have joined his standard, and the Beys no longer molest him”!!!

Morning Chronicle, March 8th.

In a subsequent paper we are informed, “that the General has 30,000 regular troops under his command, and an auxiliary army of 50,000 more, composed of Copts and Druses”! also, “that he has embarked 400 sailors,” (why not as many thousands?) “on the Red Sea,” to seize the Malabar Coast, we presume, previous to the arrival of the rest of the fleet.

How much of this precious information is due to the vigorous fancy of the Morning Chronicle, we know not; but the following hint appeared in that paper on the 23d: “It has been observed, that the French have not lately published any intelligence respecting Buonaparte”! *Mact—*

forward to express them. Europe will thus be suffered to attend to her more immediate concerns, without having her fears excited, or her safety threatened, by the fictitious achievements of an army that can never return to molest her, and that has long since, perhaps, "ceased to exist."

When we published the First Part of these Letters, we were not unaware of their importance (of which we shall presently speak), nor without considerable expectations of their extensive circulation. But how infinitely short have our most sanguine hopes fallen of the reality! Besides the prodigious numbers that have been disposed of in Great Britain and Ireland, large editions have been printed at Hamburgh, Francfort, and other towns on the Continent;—thus no corner of Europe is without a certain portion of information respecting the expedition, on the success and issue of which, the unbiassed reader may speculate with a degree of probability seldom hoped for in these cases, and still less seldom attained.

In France, too, the letters, notes, &c. have been republished, and, as it is said, with counter notes. These we have not yet seen; but we have been favoured with a REVIEW of the original

observations by the authors of the "*Decade Philosophique et Littéraire*." To this we had prepared a reply, "from a full flowing stomach," when it struck us, that the French editor and translator, Citizen E. T. SIMON, had not improbably, sophisticated the original; for on no other principle could we account for the false and calumnious strictures of these critics. We know the caution necessary to be observed by gentlemen who, in "the freest of all possible Republics," write with the Cayenne Diligence at the door, and are prepared to make every reasonable allowance for it; but when the dread of that vehicle induces them to fabricate or suppress evidence at will—quæ de-deramus supra repetimus—we recall our indulgence, and judge of their proceedings with all the inflexibility of justice. There is, indeed, a possibility (as we have already observed) that the Letters have not been fairly laid before them; and we therefore withhold our remarks, till we shall have received the Paris edition.

We observe, that the immediate agents of the Directory are much displeased at the terms in which we speak of the Army of the East. This is well. When we speak, or even think, of the perpetrators of such unheard of cruelties as these men have committed in Italy and Egypt, without

the keenest indignation, may we meet the contempt of every good man, and still worse, the applause of all we despise and detest!

The French, as the poor Cardinal Antici once observed, "know how to distinguish;" but we are not solicitous of their notice. Without considering what effect our strictures might have on them, or caring whether they had any, we delivered a plain, unvarnished tale. Our authorities were submitted to the world; and if the fair conclusions we drew from them have, as their writers say, contributed to make their countrymen feared and hated in every part of Europe, we sincerely rejoice at it. This was the point we had in view: but we took no crooked or indirect means to attain it—and since a faithful narrative of their enormities, recorded by their own pens, has had the salutary effect of which their politicians speak, the Egyptian expedition cannot be regarded in future as wholly useless.

Of the motives for this expedition a pretty ample account has been given in the Introduction to the former Part. We have, therefore, nothing to add here on the subject, but a simple declaration, that all we have since heard and seen concerning it, serves but to corroborate our former opinion, and to place it almost beyond the pos-

sibility of doubt. THE ARMY OF THE EAST WAS CERTAINLY MEANT TO BE SACRIFICED.

“ But how,” say the French critics (for they labour this point with uncommon earnestness)—“ how can this be true, when the son of the Director Merlin was embarked in it?” This we did not know before; but *n’importe*—if the Director Merlin himself had been embarked, instead of his son, we should not have varied one jot in our opinion. We never said, indeed we never supposed, that Bonaparte and Berthier were doomed to destruction with the rest; and we see no physical impossibility in completing the trio of sacrosancts with the “ son of the Director Merlin.”

“ But who can imagine for a moment,” continue they, “ that the Directory, so sensible of “ the merits of their armies, and so attentive to “ their happiness, could wantonly destroy them? “ No one; the thing is impossible.”

These gentlemen have a triumphant way of putting their questions; they grow impatient too, like Sisera’s mother, and answer themselves. But we are not quite so rapid. If they would consent to reduce their proposition to a logical form, we should strenuously deny the major, and force them to begin a-new.—But seriously; where does this attention of the Directory to the happiness of their

armies appear? In their treatment of that in question, peradventure. Hear then the speech of Bonaparte to it, on the day of its embarkation for Egypt.

“ Officers and Soldiers!

“ It is now some time since I have had the
“ command of you. I found you on the river of
“ Genoa, IN A STATE OF THE UTMOST MISERY: YOU
“ WERE IN WANT OF EVERY THING; AND YOU HAD
“ SACRIFICED EVEN YOUR VERY WATCHES TO PRO-
“ CURE YOURSELVES BREAD”!!!—This is one glorious proof, among a thousand, of the sensibility of the government of France to the merits of their armies, and of the interest they take in their happiness!

Having completed our preliminary remarks, it may not be amiss, perhaps, to recapitulate, but in the briefest manner, the achievements of the “ Hero of Italy,” and the army he thus harangued. BONAPARTE lands in the neighbourhood of Alexandria, professing his “ faith in
“ the CORAN, and his inviolable regard for the
“ TURKS;” he then marches against that city, which is wholly garrisoned by TURKS, and which he forbears to summon,* that he may have a pretext for carrying it by assault and giving it up to

* See Adjutant-General Boyer’s letter, Part First, p. 132.

plunder and indiscriminate slaughter for the space of four hours!* Streaming with blood, he then proclaims, that he is come “to restore the Egyptians to the full possession of their property, which had been invaded by the Beys, their oppressors;” and sets out for Cairo without money or provisions, trusting entirely to pillage for the subsistence of his army! “The villages of the Egyptians” (say all the letters public and private), “were surrounded with heaps of grain, while their little fields were full of nutritive and refreshing vegetables.” ARE THEY SO NOW? Now, that the enlightened propagators of the Rights of Man have rescued their inhabitants from the “oppression of the Beys”? Ah, no! the fields are stripped of every thing, and the heaps of grain carried off, to exchange for more portable plunder,† and to pay for the hire of the transports which imported this exterminating plague.

* See Part First, p. 150. We take this opportunity of correcting a mistake which we fell into respecting this letter (No. XXII.) From the difficulty of making out the writing, we attributed it to Adjutant-General Boyer, for so we read the name. We are now convinced that it was Royer, having since seen a letter of General Berthier's, in which this officer is frequently mentioned. The reader will, therefore, have the goodness to correct this misnomer, and wherever the XXII. letter is quoted, to insert Royer instead of Boyer.

† See Bonaparte's letter to Kleber, Part First, p. 63.

Still tormented with the thirst of rapine, Bonaparte has scarce taken possession of Cairo, after defeating the Mameloucs, ere he proceeds with the major part of his harassed forces, to seize on the caravan. Baffled in this attempt by the superior gallantry of his opponents, he returns to his former position; where, in the utmost distress for money to quiet the clamours of his troops, who had received no pay since they left Toulon, he attempts to revive a farce which he had frequently exhibited in Italy, with too much success. He selects a few poor wretches from the dregs of the populace, cloaths them in tri-coloured scarfs, dignifies them with the name of Cheiks and Agas, and thrusts them together into a large room, where they are told they constitute a **DIVAN**; and where, under the tuition of the General, and the bayonets of the soldiery, they are to proceed with due gravity to pass decrees for levying contributions, and despoiling their countrymen of their lives and properties in the name of **LIBERTY, EQUALITY, and FRANCE!**

The extreme ignorance of Bonaparte respecting the manners, habits, &c. of the Eastern nations, prevented him from discovering that the miserable objects he had chosen for the government of Egypt (Coptic scribes and Jew pedlars), were precisely

the people to render it impracticable and hateful. The contempt with which this description of persons has been treated for ages, and the odium with which they are universally regarded, are scarce secrets to a school-boy out of France—and Bonaparte and his *Savans* had yet to learn them! They were learned however; for no earthly power could force the people of the country to pay the slightest attention to the mandates of such a ridiculous set of “bearded automatons:”* and the General, whose wants became hourly more urgent, saw himself reduced to the necessity of assembling a more respectable Divan.

From this moment all is doubt and uncertainty. A general insurrection seems to have followed this meeting: but its immediate causes and consequences are yet to be developed. Not a single official letter has reached Europe since it took place, and the few private ones which have come to hand are more calculated to provoke than to satisfy the public curiosity. It only appears that hundreds, perhaps thousands, fell on each side; but whether the French ultimately prevailed, and have to look to a second insurrection for their final extermination, or whether they were cut off in that of which we speak, is a mat-

See Royer's letter, Part First, p. 162.

ter of which this part of the world remains at present in perfect ignorance. Our own opinion is, that the "Army of the East" is by this time a shadow of a shade; and that among the few which may yet reach France after the recapture of Alexandria (an event that must speedily take place) not one will be found who shared in the "immortal battle of the Pyramids," or the triumphant "expedition to the confines of Syria"!

"But the French," exclaim the Jacobins, "have received recent intelligence from Egypt, and they tell us the army is in a more flourishing state than ever." No doubt of it!—but we are pleased with the interruption, because it gives us an opportunity of making a few remarks for the first and last time, on the subject of their boasted intelligence.

We begin then with a bold assertion—it is, that, with the exception of such packets as were on board the *Généreux*, and which might reach Paris by the way of Ancona, THE DIRECTORY HAVE NOT RECEIVED A SINGLE ORIGINAL DISPATCH, NOR THE PEOPLE OF FRANCE A SINGLE ORIGINAL LETTER FROM THE ARMY OF THE EAST, SINCE THE CAPTURE OF MALTA. The first dispatches of Bonaparte and Berthier were taken by the Turks and sent to Constantinople. There the Porte per-

mitted them to be copied by the different ambassadors; and those who are acquainted with the politics of one of the Northern courts, who know that the French have an active agent in every one of its ministers, will not be long at a loss for the manner in which they reached the Directory. Private letters (that is to say, copies of them) have found their way to France through the same channel; for most of the originals are in this country.

The uncontrollable dominion which we possess in the Mediterranean, and the annihilation of the French flag in that sea, have rendered what was before a matter of extreme difficulty, almost an impossibility. All the intercepted letters are full of complaints of the want of intelligence: none is received, and none is sent, unless to be taken before their eyes by our cruizers. Nay, so completely are the French in Egypt secluded from the world, that even in their last letters we find them altogether ignorant of the three events which most concern them, the hostility of the Turks, the revolt of the Maltese, and the renewal of the war in Italy!

Bonaparte himself ("the undisturbed possessor of Egypt," as he is styled) is so sensible of the innumerable obstacles which oppose his communicating with France, that he has long since ceased to attempt it in the usual way. From the period

of his defeat by Ibrahim Bey, he has ceased writing altogether, and has had recourse to the press. His official papers of every kind are printed in great numbers, and trusted to itinerant Syrians, Jews, &c. who frequent the Egyptian marts, and who are paid for conveying them secretly to Scanderoon, Berut, or St. John d'Acre, in hopes of finding some neutral vessel there that will undertake to forward them to France. We have now before us several copies of the General's last dispatches, which were discovered plaited into the clothes of a Jew at Acre. Others have found their way to Constantinople, and from thence to France. But we would ask our readers, if they can desire a stronger proof of the dreadful situation to which Bonaparte is reduced, than this expedient,—savouring so strongly of despair?

We must not permit this second selection of intercepted letters to go into the hands of the public without expressing our decided opinion of the importance of the matter they contain, and the signal benefits that will be derived from them to the cause of political history. This, indeed, we shall do with the greater readiness, as the tendency of the publication has been unobserved by some, and perverted by others. The ill-informed, and careless have been able to

discover but little in it; the secretly mortified have affected to ask "cui bono?" while the thorough-paced Jacobin, anxious only for the credit of France, has boldly ventured on that from which French confidence itself has shrunk, and unblushingly questioned its authenticity.* The last class of critics we may safely leave to the judgment of all who are capable of receiving a sincere impression from truth, and return to the object which was first announced.

There have been former expeditions to the coast of Africa; though conducted upon principles differing toto cœlo from that systematic plan of robbery and proscription which seems to have directed the present. The nearest approach they make to each other, is in the miseries they have endured in common. How much more impressive would be our remembrance of the second voyage of Charles V. and of the miserable adventure of Don Sebastian, if one of the armies had poured out (through the medium of an "Intercepted Correspondence") its lamentations on the storm which so nearly destroyed the whole fleet, and with it, every hope of returning: and the other vented its terror (so dreadfully justified by the event) of the implacable hostility of Muley Moluch! But they wrote no

* See the Morning Chronicle.

letters,—or, if they did, there was no vigilant enemy at hand to capture them. It was reserved by Providence for a master nation, in after times, to suffer the long meditated scheme of blood to be carried a certain length towards its completion; then to close the fatal passage on the heels of the emboldened invaders, and not only to cut them suddenly off from every hope, but to hold forth to the present age, and to all posterity, the alarm and self-condemnation of the perpetrators of the guilt!

And even if we looked at the Correspondence with no higher view, never surely was there a more interesting one submitted to the eye of the reader. Every man must recollect how his feelings have been checked, while a uniformity of narration has deadened the interest which should naturally spring from events of infinite variety and moment. But HERE our liveliness of perception never abates, nor is our animation ever suffered to languish. Not only are facts of the utmost importance described, but (what is rarely to be found in common history) the existing opinions concerning them. All the writers are pouring forth their undisguised thoughts on the hazard of their situation, into the bosoms of their families and friends. Their hopes and fears, their

credulity and repentance, their distress and their presumption, all pass in quick and various review. Their entire condition is before us;—*quicquid agunt, votum, timor, ira*—in short, there is all but the *voluptas*.

We turn, however, to a more serious object, and wish to point out the peculiar uses to be drawn from this Correspondence.

There is no instance on record in which the history of a most important expedition has been given, not only with such truth and dispatch, but with so much salutary conviction for the future repose and safety of mankind. That some who have led, and some who have followed armies, have described their operations is most certain. But the vanity of one man, the error or interest of another, affords but a slender ground (comparatively speaking) on which to build historical confidence; and in proportion as we recede from the unbiassed testimony of numbers, the chance of truth is lessened. This seems but a common remark; but we shall have more than a common use for it when the campaigns of Bonaparte in Italy shall be given us (as has long been threatened) from “AUTHORITY.”

Unfortunately there is no “intercepted correspondence” from that army; nothing, therefore,

remains to oppose to the "authority" which is to overawe us but the settled incredulity of the intelligent, against French falsehood labouring to dignify and adorn French cruelty and rapine. But if ever the Egyptian expedition should be officially described by the authors of it, (of which we have no doubt) and the mischiefs and miseries of it, sunk or glossed over by the terrified and prostitute "Savans," (and of this we have as little doubt,) THEN will these Letters rise up in judgment against them!—THEN will the original depravity of the plan be distinctly seen with the fatality of its execution! What began in iniquity ended in ruin. Unceasing anxiety and distress marked every stage of the accursed work, till the love of blood and plunder finally sunk under the dreadful chastisement it had voluntarily provoked.

And this leads us to the important consequences to be derived to the world, not only from the failure of the adventure, but from the declarations of the adventurers themselves concerning it. We scruple not to say, that if any thing is hereafter to preserve Egypt from the restlessness of French rapacity, it will be these collections of "intercepted letters." They "speak daggers" though they "use none." And surely, if the total unprofitableness of the country which has been coveted by them for so

many ages ; and the execrations of a whole army, or those who sent them to certain destruction, have any power to deter—this will be the LAST ATTEMPT on the ever hostile sands of Africa.

One word more. The reader of these Letters (especially if he has been accustomed to interest himself in the events of other times), cannot but be struck with that petty air of antiquarianism, that small dealing in historical virtû, which so many of them exhibit, and which, perhaps, will be found to distinguish the French nation in most of their excursions, whether in peace or war. But though we should only smile if conversation were disfigured, or correspondence unseasonably usurped by the affectation of such attainments, we must be serious when the repose of mankind is sacrificed to the never-ending pretensions of exorbitant power, purposely disguised in the pursuits of a college of “Savans.” We may safely allow some captain (p. 63.) bursting with his new acquirements, to describe to his wondering correspondent the “Pyramids, commonly called the Needles of Cleopatra” ! We may safely allow his more mature intelligence to correct a “vulgar error,” (p. 62.) and restore to Severus the pillar unjustly claimed by Pompey ! It had already been allowed to

MONGE (who, as Bonaparte affirmed of him, was an “excellent judge of such matters”), to stand on the undoubted ruins of the Palace of Ulysses, and to trace out the true spot where old Laertes pruned his vines.—But what shall we say if Treaties themselves are subjected to the influence of these vague pursuits? If a Peace with one power is to be determined by the exact boundaries (if any soul can find them) of the NORIC Alps;* and a piece of territory belonging to another is to be purloined through a critical disquisition of the ancient bed of the Rhine? These are dark demands, but the object of them is sufficiently clear; confusion is rendered eternal. Ere the truth can be ascertained, Europe is exhausted with war, or nations resting on their arms, wait upon a never-ending congress of antiquarians! They stake the public tranquillity upon conjectures, which being exerted on things compounded in a mass, rather than singly presented in any determinate order, are necessarily devoid of precision. But their purpose is answered by it. Upon these doubts they graft substantial power. They

* Private and more profitable reasons made them forego this restriction first laid upon the Emperor. The claim upon Prussia is not yet decided. When will it?

go to war with Cluverius in their hands; and public rapine is thus made to spring from an antiquated system of geography!

But we turn from their rapacity in Europe to their folly in Egypt. A great discovery is now made, which is to crown all the political pretensions hitherto drawn from the lucubrations of the NATIONAL INSTITUTE! The line of the canal is found which formerly joined the Red Sea to the Pelusiatic branch of the Nile. Commerce is at length to be restored to its "wonted freedom," between the Eastern ocean, and the wealth of India is to be transferred to the new possessors of Damietta! Euge!—But to be serious. If the timidity of any person has for a moment been alarmed at this menace to the prosperity of his country, he may calm himself with the assurance, that at no period of the world was the commerce of the East maintained through the channel which is now about to ruin us. That there was such a project in antiquity, as that of opening the communication of which we speak, is an historical truth: that there was an attempt at the execution of it, is no less true. The advantages which attended the building of Alexandria were still disputed in some degree, by that part of the Syrian coast to which the trade of the East had found its way from a

very remote time : and the second Ptolemy seems to have planned the scheme in question, in order to decide the affair at once, by establishing a competition of a carriage of goods entirely by water against another of a mixed kind.

That Egypt usurped the trade of its rival is certain ; but it was not through the fancied canal of Suez. That canal was never finished ; or, if we allow it to have been completed, it was speedily abandoned, as not answering the purpose for which it was intended. The navigation was either too tedious or too dangerous ; and, so far from being the favourite resort of commerce during successive ages, was suddenly stopped by the very man who had planned it. In what more convenient spot a port for the Eastern trade was afterwards prepared, it does not belong to us to say. It is sufficient to have proved that the present plan is a chimæra. If Le Pere, and his engineers (p. 88) would but look into Strabo—but this we will not expect. We rather refer them to a countryman of their own, whom they would have done well to take in their pockets instead of Savary. They will find in M. Ameilhon, * one of their *old* Academicians, due men-

* Sur le Commerce des Egyptiens. The reader will find the first part of it abounding with that amplification of doubt-

tion made of the fallacious work they are about to revive, and of the subsequent removal of the trade to another place—a place much more distant from the Nile, than Suez from Cairo; and requiring, we presume, a far more effectual mastery of the inland country, than is likely to accrue to these momentary possessors of Egypt.

Thus far of their policy. It would have been gratifying to us, if there did not remain a particular of another nature to be very solemnly noticed. The general tendency of French principles to corrupt all morals, as well as to overthrow all government, has been matter of long and melancholy observation. The letters from Egypt, while they confirm this truth, add one feature of peculiar horror to it. Those acts of private licentiousness, over which the unprincipled themselves have hitherto endeavoured to throw at least some slender veil; that depravity which has till now feared the indignation of virtue;—all this the foul correspondence through which we have travelled, fully and shamelessly exhibits. Nay those whose more revered relation to us, whose years and sacred authority,

ful history, that rhetorical inflation which usually marks the French inquiries into antiquity: but the second part is really valuable, and would much benefit M. Le Pere.

mankind has conspired to honour with the most signal respect,—PARENTS themselves, are here made the depositaries of their children's vices!

—— GRANDE NEFAS, ET MORTE PIANDUM.

To the Letters, we have subjoined the Address of the Patriarch of Constantinople to the Greek inhabitants of the isles of Corfou, Zante, Cephalonia, Ithaca, &c. It is a very curious document; and will, we doubt not, be read with a considerable degree of interest. The friend of religion and good order will recognize the substance of it, disguised as it is with many peculiarities; and the lover of ancient literature will receive with cordiality so genuine a specimen of the language yet used by the descendants of Xenophon and Plato!

But it is not in this light (however important) that we mean to speak of the piece in question. We shall merely glance at it in connection with the learned mission of the *Savans*: these men, too, have furnished an Address* in Greek; which the reader will find in the Appendix to

* We did not, as perhaps we ought to have done, call the reader's attention to the sanguinary regulations of the modern Draco, the "hope and consolation" of the hypocritical whimperers over "suffering humanity"! The 5th and 6th

the First Part of these Letters. Doubtless they burnt with impatience to signalize their learning in promoting the views of the Commander in Chief; and scarcely were they landed at Malta ere their zeal found an escape, in the composition of the paper in question. That it has astonished the people of Paris there can be no doubt, and that is its chief advantage; for as to the Greeks themselves, they will naturally conclude (what indeed is the truth), that those who circulated it were mainly ignorant of the proper style for the persons they addressed. We wish not to fatigue the reader with references, but, after perusing the Patriarch's Epistle, let him turn to the letters written by certain Greeks to the late Empress of Russia, and which he will find in Eton's Survey

article of the paper in question are yet, we believe, unrivalled in the annals of blood, and must stamp the brutal commander who fabricated them with eternal shame and disgrace.

Whatever may be the ultimate effects of Lord Nelson's victory, its immediate consequences must be highly beneficial to the Greeks, who are devoted to death *en masse*, for what can scarcely be termed an offence. They are snatched by it from the grasp of a man who wantons in the desolation of his species; and whose Code of Legislation, lettered on the back LIBERTY AND EQUALITY, contains nothing, through many a bloody page, but an eternal repetition of the words, "injustice, proscription, and murder"!

of the Turkish Empire.—All these the ancient scholar will be able to read with but little difficulty. Making allowance for an initial truncation or two (which soon betray themselves by their frequent recurrence), a leaning to one of the tenses (future) in preference to the rest, a visible attachment to potential indications, and a cumbersome addition of the auxiliary to the inflected verb, the use of which is still retained, the rest is easy enough. But the *Savans*, who seem to think that the modern Greek is to be found at the greatest possible distance from the ancient, have heaped the ruggedness of Pelion upon that of Ossa, have added barbarism to barbarism, and sought to obtain the praise of fidelity by every species of uncouthness! Not so think the Greeks of the Archipelago, not so the Archbishop of Constantinople. It is observable he addresses the very people who are named in the French regulations, but with a difference of language which clearly teaches us what inference to draw from the comparison. In short, the Greeks themselves (unless where foreign ignorance interferes to check them) endeavour to recollect what they can of their ancient manner, and in their public addresses free themselves in some measure from their colloquial or commercial corruptions. The *Savans* take the

opposite method, and make "confusion more confounded."—"Rend, tear, pull,—that I may have nothing about me like that rogue Peter." They may be complimented by the NATIONAL INSTITUTE,—they would be whipt at SAMOS.

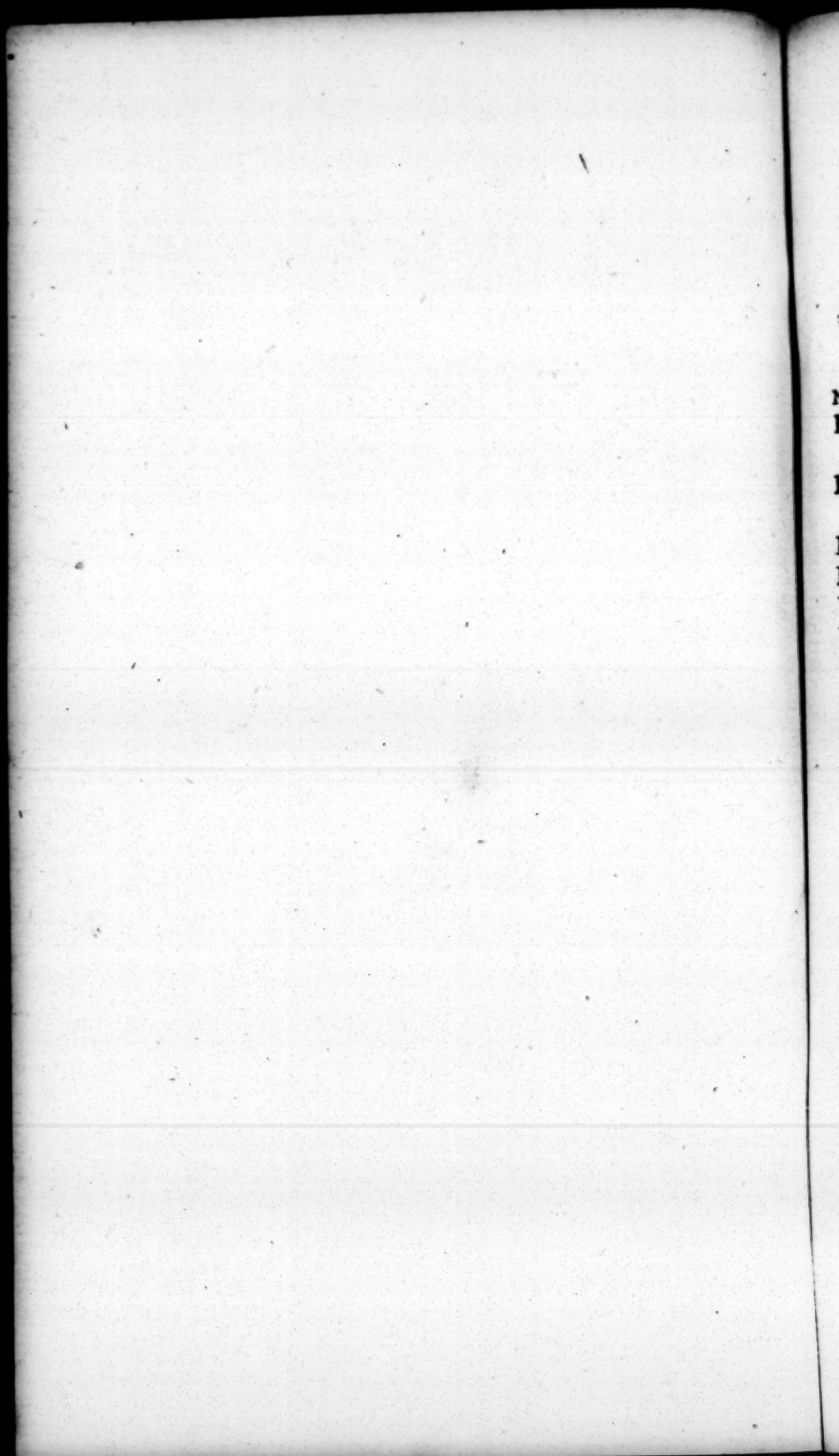


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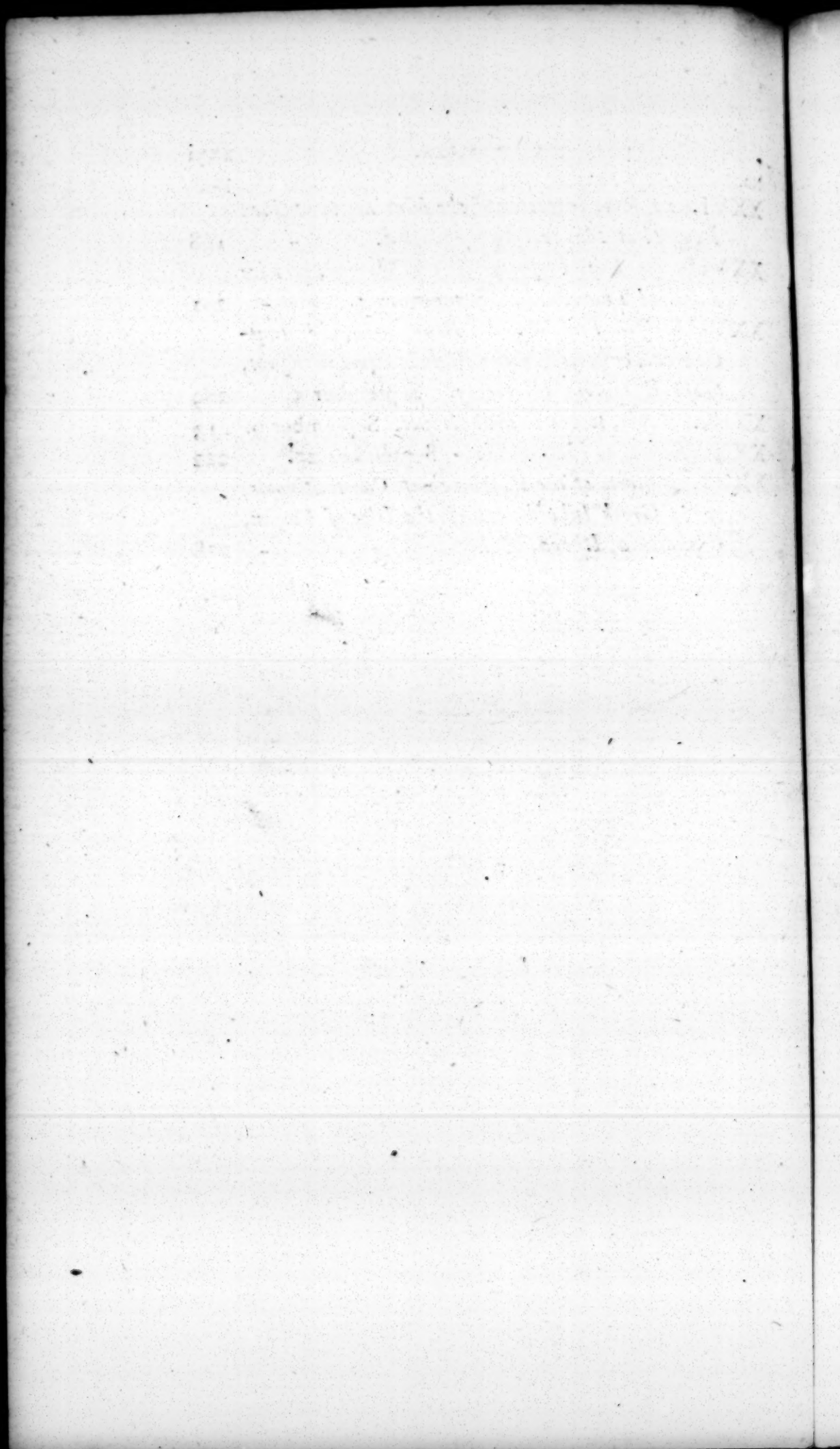
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COPIES
OF
ORIGINAL LETTERS.

PART II.

No. I.

Alexandrie, le 19 Messidor, an 6.

SHECHY, Capitaine Adjudant à l'Etat-Major du Général BONAPARTE, au Citoyen LE MAIRE, à Paris.

JE voulois vous écrire, mon cher Le Maire, une longue lettre : lisez l'incluse ; elle vous apprendra où nous en sommes pour le moment. Dites bien des choses de ma part à Madame Dumuy, et que j'aurai soin de lui faire passer une lettre bien détaillée du Caire, où j'espère pouvoir bientôt arriver avec le Général Bonaparte. Dumuy est ici ; il reste à Alexandrie pour y organiser divers corps, traiter avec les Arabes Bédouins, dont vous avez ci-bas quelques notices, et entretenir la correspondance avec la métropole.

PART II.

B

Nous faisons, mon cher Le Maire, un métier bien fatigant. Il n'y a rien de comparable dans cette guerre avec celle de l'Europe. Nous nous estimons très-heureux si nous pouvons avoir de l'eau et du biscuit. Nous allons faire une marche de cinq jours à travers le Désert. Cachetez la lettre au Citoyen Doulcet. Remettez, je vous prie, la Note ci-jointe à mon oncle. J'ai écrit une lettre bien longue à Madame Dumuy de Malthe. Je vous ai aussi prévenu de l'envoi qui a été fait de mon affaire d'avancement au Ministre de la Guerre par Berthier. Voyez Tallien et Bruiix ; dites-leur bien des choses de ma part. Engagez-les à faire terminer un objet si facile à arranger. Voyez vous-même ce qu'il est possible de faire. Donnez-moi beaucoup de nouvelles, et recevez l'assurance de mon amitié.

MAR. SHECHY.

Note. Les Arabes Bédouins se levent chaque jour de très-bonne heure, se mettent à genoux et baisent la terre deux fois en regardant le ciel. Au lever du soleil et à l'apparition de la lune, ils font la même cérémonie trois fois de suite, en tournant les regards vers cette planète. Ils sont commandés par des chefs qu'ils respectent, ils les saluent toutes les fois qu'ils passent devant eux, font la plus grande attention à tout ce qu'ils leur disent, et remplissent exactement leurs ordres.

Ils sont habillés d'une toile blanche de laine qui s'attache à leurs cols, et dont ils jettent les pans sur leurs épaules. Leurs bras sont nus. Ils ont une espèce de pantalon large qui s'attache aux genoux. La jambe est nue, et n'ont qu'une sandale de cuire jaune au pied.

Les femmes sont habillées à peu près comme les hommes. Elles portent leurs enfans sur le dos. Elles

sont considérées de leurs maris ; elles ne mangent pas avec eux. Comme les Scythes, ils s'établissent dans des camps qu'ils transportent à volonté et selon les circonstances. Ils emportent avec eux toutes leurs familles, qu'ils mettent sur des chameaux, dont ils ont un bien plus grand nombre que de chevaux. Les femmes et les enfans montent sur le dos d'un chameau, où se trouve une espèce de cabane circulaire, dans laquelle elles sont très-commodément couchées ensemble avec leurs enfans.

Ils se voyent souvent et sont très-familiers et complaisants entre eux. Les personnes d'une famille ne mangent jamais chez une autre. Ils font des échanges de marchandises ou autres objets d'utilité générale, sans avoir besoin d'argent. Tout ce qui est pris appartient au preneur ; l'homme même, fait prisonnier, peut être vendu par celui qui s'en est rendu maître, sans que d'autres puissent avoir rien à y prétendre. Ils ont cependant pour habitude générale, de ne faire que dévaliser sans tuer, à moins qu'on ne leur résiste.

Leur manière de vivre est très-dure. Ils vivent d'un pain très-noir, cuit sur le crotin de leurs chameaux. Leur eau, contenue pendant longtems dans des sacs de peau de bouc, exposée toujours au soleil, est très-puante. Ils trempent leur pain dans une espèce d'huile qui a une très-mauvaise odeur ; ils la recueillent au milieu des sables du Désert, dans des sources qui ne sont connues que d'eux seuls, et qu'on ne trouve qu'à une distance de vingt lieues l'une de l'autre.

Chaque famille habite seule une même tente ; elle est commandée par un chef, c'est lui qui fait la guerre. Les chevaux dont ils se servent uniquement dans toutes leurs expéditions, sont tous de la plus grande agilité, tous sont

sauvages et franchissent les montagnes les plus escarpées avec la même rapidité qu'ils courent dans la plaine ; ils ne sont jamais ferrés.

Ce sont des officiers faits prisonniers chez les Bédouins, qui m'ont donné les détails ci-dessus. Je les ai recueillis au moment où les chefs Arabes étoient chez Bonaparte pour traiter avec lui.

Je n'ai pas assez de papier pour faire des enveloppes. Faites celle du Citoyen Doulcet.

TRANSLATION.

Alexandria, (19 Messidor) July 7th, 1798.

SHECHY, *Captain-Adjutant to the Staff of General Bonaparte, to Citizen LE MAIRE, at Paris.*

I WISHED to write you, my dear Le Maire, a long letter—Read the inclosed ;* it will inform you where we are at present. Say every thing for me to Madame Dumuy ; and above all, assure her that I will take care to send her an ample account of all our transactions, from Cairo, where I hope to arrive soon, with General Bonaparte. Dumuy† is here ; he stays behind to organize the troops that remain, to treat with the Bedouin

* See the next letter.

† This seems to be the person mentioned by General Menou (Part I. p. 98.) ; his name, indeed, is spelt differently ; but we observe a great inaccuracy with respect to names, throughout the whole of this Correspondence.

Arabs, of whom you will find some account below, and to open a communication with the capital.

We are engaged here, my dear Le Maire, in a most fatiguing business. The wars of Europe have nothing in common with this of Egypt. We reckon ourselves fortunate in the extreme, if we can procure biscuit and water. We are now preparing for a march of five days across the Desert.

Put a wafer in Citizen Doulcet's letter ; and pray be kind enough to give the subjoined note respecting the Arabs, to my uncle. I wrote a very long letter to Madame Dumuy, from Malta : I wrote also to you, informing you, that the memorial relative to my promotion had been transmitted to the Minister of War, by Berthier. Call on Tallien and Bruix ; give my remembrances to them, and intreat them to accelerate an affair which may be easily arranged : try yourself too, what can be done in it. Write me a long letter, and accept the assurances of my friendship.

MAR. SHECHY,

Note.

THE Bedouin Arabs constantly rise at a very early hour, drop on their knees, and kiss the ground twice, with their eyes turned towards the heavens. At sunrise, and at the first appearance of the moon, they repeat the same ceremony three times, directing their face towards that planet. They are commanded by chiefs, whom they respect ; they salute them whenever they approach or pass them, pay the greatest attention to every thing they say, and punctually execute all their commands.

Their usual dress is a piece of white woollen, which

they fasten round their necks, throwing the corners over their shoulders. Their arms are quite naked. They have also a kind of pantaloons, reaching to the knee, where it is fastened; the legs, like the arms, are naked: they have all yellow slippers.

The dress of the women differs very little from that of the men. They carry their children on their backs. They are in good estimation with their husbands, though they do not eat with them. Like the Scythians, the Bedouins dwell in camps, which they move at pleasure, and as circumstances require. They carry with them all their household on camels, of which they possess a far greater number than of horses. The women and children are placed on the back of one of these animals, in a kind of circular cot, which affords them all a sufficient space to lie down.

They visit frequently, and live in a state of great familiarity and kindness one with another; but it is observable, that one family never eats with another. They exchange one kind of merchandize, or one object of general utility for another, without the intervention of specie, of which they have no need. Every thing that is taken belongs to the taker: nay, a man may be made prisoner, and even sold by him who made him so, without any other person's pretending to interfere. Their general practice* is not to put any one to death, but only to rob him; unless he should be rash enough to make resistance.

* *Cependant*, in the original; this word must have escaped Shechy through inadvertence; he could not surely have thought it strange, that those who were at liberty to sell their prisoners, did not kill them.

Their manner of living is very hard. They feed on a species of bread extremely black, and baked on the dung of their camels. Their water, kept for a long while in bottles made of goats' skin, and constantly exposed to the heat of the sun, is extremely offensive. They dip their bread in a kind of oil of a most disagreeable smell, which they procure in the midst of the sands of the Desert, from springs known only to themselves, and not less than fifty or sixty miles from each other.*

* It is hardly necessary to caution the reader to receive as little as possible of what the French pretend to give from the information of Arabs, Copts, &c. As far as the senses are concerned, they may generally be trusted, but no farther. What the prisoners saw, we are willing to believe they related with fidelity; but when they proceed to tell us (from conversations, of which they certainly understood not a single word) of wonderful springs of oil found in the Desert, and kept secret from all the world, but the French; we can only say, *cras credimus, hodie nihil*. Bituminous and unctuous substances are sometimes, indeed, found floating on the surface of small pools or lakes, and — but 'tis needless to enter further into the subject, on such authorities as those before us.

The little picture of the domestic economy of the Arabs, though rudely sketched, is far from being uninteresting. Their simple expressions of pious dependence, their respectful attachment to their hereditary chiefs, and their familiar and affectionate intercourse with one another, cannot fail to prepossess the reader a little in their favour; and raise them in his mind far above the atheistical, turbulent, and unsocial horde, who, under the guidance of a ferocious Corsican, have traversed a thousand leagues of sea, for the "consolatory" purpose of exterminating them!

When one considers, too, the poverty of these people, their black bread, stinking water, and rancid oil, their burning sands, and interminable deserts, one would imagine that they, at least,

Every family has a tent to itself. It is under the command of a chief, and it is he only who makes war. Their horses, which are exclusively reserved for their excursions, are inconceivably active ; they are all wild, and ascend the steepest mountains with the same rapidity they run on even ground. They are never shod.

All these details were given me by the officers who had been made prisoners by the Bedouins on our landing. I collected them at the instant that the chiefs of the Arabs were with Bonaparte, arranging the terms of the treaty.

I have no paper to spare for covers. You will, therefore, inclose Citizen Doulcet's letter, and direct it to him.

would be secure from the rapacity and cruelty of France. Delusive thought ! that nation has the eternal fever of the tiger ; and presses forward with blind and inconsiderate fury, to slake its thirst in the blood of all it can reach, and overcome.

No. II.

Alexandrie, le 19 Messidor.

SHECHY, Capitaine Adjudant à l'Etat-Major du Général BONAPARTE, au Citoyen DOULCET, Rue St. Fiacre, près celle du Sentier, à Paris.

JE profite du seul instant que j'ai pu avoir depuis la prise de cette ville, pour remplir l'engagement que j'ai contracté avec vous.

Notre voyage de Toulon à Malthe n'a été accompagné d'aucun événement bien intéressant. Vous connoissez déjà toutes les particularités de la prise de cette isle importante. Nous avons mis à la voile le 30 Prairial au soir, et par un vent du N. O. qui règne continuellement dans ces parages durant la saison actuelle, nous avons poussé dans douze jours devant Alexandrie.

Le 13 au soir, après avoir donné tous les ordres nécessaires pour effectuer le débarquement dans la nuit, le Général en Chef s'est embarqué à bord d'une galère de Malthe, à l'effet de pouvoir approcher plus près de la côte ; malgré les conseils *prudents* des marins qui prétendoient un débarquement impossible, à cause de la violence des vents, et des rescifs qui remplissent la Baye de Marabout, le Général Bonaparte a poursuivi son projet de descente, et l'a fait effectuer dans ce point même. Marabout est à trois lieues d'Alexandrie ; j'étois

du nombre des officiers d'Etat-Major qui l'ont accompagné.

Descendus sur la plage, nous avons rencontré les Généraux Menou, Kleber, Bon, et Regnier : celui-ci avoit très-peu de monde de débarqué ; il a reçu ordre de garder le point de débarquement ; les autres sont partis sur trois colonnes pour marcher sur Alexandrie.

Le Général en Chef et son Etat-Major, après avoir dormi pendant deux heures sur le sable, se sont éveillés pour se mettre à la tête des divisions. Celle Kleber occupoit le centre, et se dirigeoit droit sur la Colonne de Pompée. Celle Menou étoit placée à la gauche de celle-ci, et longeoit la mer. Celle Bon étoit à la droite de Kleber, et marchoit sur la porte de Rosette. Nous nous sommes mis à la tête de la division Kleber.

Nous aperçûmes à la pointe du jour quelques cavaliers qui s'avançoient sur nous, et qui, voyant que nous n'avions point de cavalerie, sont venus nous tirer des coups de carabine jusqu'à la portée du pistolet ; mais nos tirailleurs s'étant avancés rapidement au milieu des collines qui bordaient nos flancs, les ont forcés à s'éloigner. Nous continuâmes notre marche, toujours à pied, jusqu'à près de $\frac{3}{4}$ de lieue de la ville : à quelques pas de là, nous trouvâmes une mosquée où étoit placée une citerne ; nous bûmes avec délice d'une eau douce, que les fatigues de la marche nous ont fait trouver des plus agréables.

Arrivés à la Colonne de Pompée, nous y fîmes encore une petite halte. Nos tirailleurs s'étoient cependant avancés très-près des murs, et faisoient le coup de fusil avec les Alexandrins, qui les bordaient de toutes parts. Le Général en Chef m'envoya sous les murs de la place reconnoître leur situation ; j'approchai seul jusqu'à la

portée de pistolet ; à peine commençois-je à considérer les forts avec une lorgnette, que j'entendis subitement les cris de plusieurs femmes et enfans qui paroisoient sur les remparts. Aussitôt je fus accueilli par une fusillade des plus vives : un volontaire placé à 30 ou 40 pas derrière moi tomba, blessé à l'épaule gauche.

Ayant rempli la mission qui me fut confiée par le Général, je revins trouver quelques volontaires éparpillés dans la plaine ; et après avoir retiré le volontaire blessé par le feu de l'ennemi, je le conduisis avec eux à la Colonne de Pompée, où étoit réuni tout l'Etat-Major.

Le Général ordonne de battre la charge, et d'attaquer sur tous les points. Nos troupes volent aux remparts, et les franchissent dans un instant, malgré une grêle de balles et de pierres qui n'ont pas laissé de nous tuer et blesser du monde. Le Général monte rapidement sur une butte assez élevée, qui commande et la ville et le port à l'effet d'observer l'attaque. Les Généraux Kleber et Menou furent blessés, l'un à la tête, l'autre n'a eu que des contusions. Ces blessures ne sont point mortelles.

Un des forts ayant été pris d'assaut, le Général m'envoya chercher les prisonniers à l'effet d'en tirer quelques renseignemens. A mon arrivée, il me renvoya dans la ville, pour y faire battre la générale, et ordonner aux troupes qui y étoient entrées, et qui faisoient le coup de fusil avec les habitans, d'en sortir, et de se mettre en bataille sous la butte où il étoit placé.

Entré dans la ville, et voyant la conduite désespérée des Alexandrins, qui ne cessoient de nous assaillir du haut de leurs toits et de leurs fenêtres de coups de pierres et de fusils, je me vis dans la nécessité de mettre

vingt hommes de chaque côté des rues que je traversois pour empêcher les mesures hostiles. Malgré cela les coups de pierres ne laisserent pas de me blesser quelques volontaires.

J'arrivai devant un petit fort gardé par une trentaine de Turcs : ils me tirèrent quelques coups de fusils ; mais voyant grossir la troupe, ils firent semblant de capituler en posant leurs fusils à la terre, et en poussant des cris effroyables.

Comme le Général m'avoit ordonné de n'attaquer aucun des forts, mais seulement de donner les ordres de faire bloquer tous ceux que je rencontrerois par les troupes des diverses divisions, je jugeai à-propos d'accepter cette capitulation ; mais au moment où j'empêchois nos troupes de tirer sur le fort, un coup de fusil tiré d'une maison voisine tua un grenadier placé à mon côté. Il tomba sur mes genoux sans exprimer une seule parole, et manqua de m'entraîner dans sa chute. Ne connoissant pas exactement la maison d'où étoit parti le coup, et ayant devant moi un fort dont je n'étois pas encore tout-à-fait maître, je me vis dans la nécessité de continuer ma route sans venger la mort du brave grenadier. Bientôt je me vis devant le principal fort de la ville ; il étoit déjà bloqué par la division Menou, et bientôt après le capitaine du bâtiment de guerre Turc, envoyé par le Général en Chef, fit mettre ce fort en notre pouvoir, et successivement tous ceux qui se trouvoient dans la ville.

Nous avons eu beaucoup de monde tant tués que blessés, et dans l'attaque, et par les Arabes Bédouins, que nous avons vus à cheval dès notre débarquement. Ils sont venus sur nos derrières, et ont tué ou pris grand nombre de traîneurs. Ces Arabes ressemblent aux

anciens Scythes. Le monde est leur patrie ; ils vivent de rapines, &c.

- - - - -

Ces Bédouins sont divisés en diverses tribus, qui se font souvent la guerre entre eux : ils sont très-redoutables ; ils ne se mêlent jamais avec les autres peuples, et ne veulent jamais retracter leurs habitudes ni leur manière de vivre ;—voilà la cause essentielle de leur force.

La Proclamation du Général Bonaparte, dont vous verrez sans doute des exemplaires, leur ayant été communiquée, ils ont de suite demandé à être nos amis, même à faire la guerre avec nous contre les Mameloucs, les oppresseurs du pays. Ils ont ramené au Général une trentaine de prisonniers qu'ils avoient fait. Avant d'avoir connoissance de la proclamation, ils ont traité ces malheureux avec la plus grande dureté. Leurs femmes leur ont fait surtout éprouver les plus cuisans tourmens ; les enfans même à la mamelle se sont amusés à leur arracher les cheveux, et à leur déchirer le visage avec leurs ongles ; et ils étoient obligés de supporter ce traitement avec patience, dans la crainte d'être encore plus maltraités par les Arabes eux-mêmes. Mais dès que la Proclamation leur est parvenue, ils traitoient les François avec douceur.

J'ai dérobé quelques instans à mon devoir pour vous donner ces détails. Nous sommes si occupés que nous n'avons pas même le tems de nous livrer au sommeil, ou de prendre un morceau d'un méchant repas. Vous ne pouvez pas concevoir la situation où nous nous trouvons en ce moment : elle est encore bien préférable à celle que nous allons éprouver dans deux ou trois jours au milieu du Désert. Nous devons nous mettre en marche le 18 ou le 19.

Je dois à l'intelligence de mon domestique d'avoir un chameau que j'ai déjà fait munir de deux sacs de peau de bouc pour porter de l'eau et du vinaigre ; heureux si je puis en avoir assez pour la route ! Ce chameau portera une partie de mes effets, de ceux de quelqu'uns de mes camarades, et des provisions pour cinq jours, qui ne consistent qu'en biscuit dur, que nous avons été obligés à retirer des vaisseaux.

La division Désaix marche ; celle de Regnier doit la suivre ; celle de Kleber partira le 18^e au matin, et celle Menou le 18^e au soir. Bientôt nous verrons le dénouement de ces projets. Pour le moment, le Caire est le but vers lequel nous tendons ; les Mamelouks battus, j'ignore si l'on portera ses vues plus loin.

Je dors en vous écrivant. Je suis excédé de fatigue. Dès que j'aurai quelques instants de tranquillité, j'aurai l'honneur de vous donner des détails plus satisfaisants et plus étendus.

Je vous prie de présenter mes respects à Madame Dumuy. Donnez-moi, je vous prie, quelques nouvelles. Vous ne pouvez pas vous faire une idée des fatigues que nous éprouvons : si nous revenons de cette expédition, nous mériterons bien le Paradis ; à bord des bâtimens, nous regrettons la France ; en Egypte, je crois que nous regretterons les vaisseaux ! Malgré toutes les contrariétés que nous éprouvons, le succès couronnera nos entreprises ; les contrariétés elles-mêmes sont pour nous un présage certain de la victoire.

On me presse tant pour les dispositions de l'armée, que je n'ai pas le tems de m'entretenir plus longtems avec vous. Le neveu de Lanne, qui est ici, vous dit mille choses.

MAR. SHECHY.

TRANSLATION.

Alexandria, (19 Messidor), July 7th.*

SHECHY, *Captain Adjutant, &c. &c. to Citizen DOULCET,† Rue St. Fiacre, at Paris.*

I AVAIL myself of the only leisure moment I have had since the capture of this city to acquit myself of the engagement I entered into with you.

Our voyage from Toulon to Malta had scarce any thing in it worth mentioning. You are already acquainted with every particular respecting the capture of that important island. We quitted it on the evening of the 18th of June, and a north-west wind, which constantly prevails in those latitudes during the present season, carried us in twelve days to Alexandria.

* This and the foregoing letter appear to be post-dated by two or three days: the mistake arose probably from haste, and is, indeed, scarce worth noticing.

† We know nothing more of Shechy than what his letters tell us. His correspondent Doulcet de Pontecoulant was formerly an officer in the Gardes-du-corps. He followed the general example, deserted his benevolent master, and actively promoted the Revolution which brought him to the scaffold.

He repented, we suppose, when it was too late; for we find him in the list of the proscribed of the 18th Fructidor: he was, however, so far pardoned, on account of his former services, as to be permitted to withdraw to Switzerland. He is now, we see, returned to France; on what terms we know not—probably he has repented of his repentance, and is ready to begin anew. In the Convention he was looked on as a *Modéré*!

On the evening of the 1st instant, after issuing the necessary orders for effecting an immediate landing, the Commander in Chief threw himself into a Maltese galley, to get nearer the shore; and in spite of the *prudent*

* Shechy uses this word with a sneer, but without reason. The landing was evidently dangerous; many of the troops were drowned in the attempt, and, according to several of the letters, the General himself was in the most imminent danger of being lost. But the fears of the English fleet prevailed over every other consideration—

————— “such a sight

“He dreaded worse than hell;”

and, if he had, with a precipitation and want of forecast, which must for ever destroy his reputation as a General, fled from Malta, without waiting to supply that important post with a sufficient quantity of troops or stores, and without taking in water for his own squadron (notwithstanding the remonstrances of Brueys), from a dread of being overtaken by Nelson; it cannot be supposed that any circumstances could easily occur powerful enough to detain him on board, when his escape now appeared to depend on the exertions of a few hours, and was, moreover, favoured by the night.

We have yet a few words to say on this subject.

The Morning Chronicle, with a disregard of truth and decency, highly worthy of the cause which it espouses, after insinuating that this Correspondence is a forgery, (not having heard, it should seem, that its friends abroad allow it to be genuine), observes, with a rancorous smile—

————— *toujours*

Le ris sur son visage est en mauvaise humeur.

—that “it is to be deposited in the British Museum—together with the body of Bonaparte, to enable the English, who did not dare to face him alive, to look at him dead”!!! Where did this degraded and despicable paper learn, that the English feared to face Bonaparte alive? Was it in the “AUTHENTIC NARRATIVE” of Captain Berry, which describes, in plain yet forcible language,

advice of the seamen, who insinuated that a debarkation was impracticable, on account of the violence of the wind, and of the reefs which fill the Bay of Marabout, General Bonaparte persisted in his determination to land, and actually did land in this very bay. I was one of the Staff that accompanied him. Marabout is about three leagues from Alexandria.

When we got on shore, we found the Generals Menou, Kleber, Bon, and Regnier; the three former with their divisions, the latter with only a few of his men about him; * he was therefore left to secure the landing-place, while the others marched in three columns for Alexandria.

The Commander in Chief and his Staff, after sleeping for about two hours on the sand, got up, and put

the gallant Nelson, with an inferior fleet, pursuing this "dreaded hero," with an eagerness that could only be surpassed by that with which Bonaparte fled from him!

But the unnatural rage of the Morning Chronicle to sacrifice the honour of this country to France, is too notorious to be farther dwelt upon. Callous alike to shame and detection, it blunders on, through universal hatred and contempt, from one ignorant and atrocious falsehood to another. The reader of the former part of this work, (Introd. p. ii.) cannot have forgotten with what consummate baseness it misrepresented the tendency of the publication, and, under the fulsome pretence of reprehending scandal, (which was no where to be found in it), gave a loose to its own darling licentiousness and impurity!

* Each of these divisions consisted of from five to seven thousand men; the reader may therefore form a tolerable estimate of the forces that attacked Alexandria. Boyer (Part I. p. 132.) reckons them at twenty-five thousand; and this, if we include the unattached volunteers of the army, who were pretty numerous, was, we doubt not, the amount.

PART II.

C

themselves at the head of the divisions. Kleber's occupied the centre, and marched toward's Pompey's Column; Menou's was drawn up on its left, and coasted along the sea; Bon's on its right, and directed its march to the gate of Rosetta. I and my party put ourselves at the head of Kleber's division.

At daybreak we discovered a few horse, who advanced upon us, and, seeing that we had no cavalry, discharged their carabines at us within pistol-shot; but some of our riflemen having rapidly gained the sand hills on our flank, soon forced them to retire. We continued our march till we got within two miles of the city. Here we found a mosque, with a cistern in it. We drank with delight of the water, which the fatigues* of the march made us think the sweetest we had ever tasted!

Arrived at Pompey's Column, we made another short halt. Our riflemen, meanwhile, had advanced close to the walls, and were skirmishing with the Alexandrines, who lined them in every part. The Commander in Chief sent me forward to reconnoitre their situation, strength, &c. I advanced alone, till I came within pistol-shot—but had scarce begun to examine the forts with my glass, ere I heard a sudden scream from the women and children, that appeared in great numbers on the ramparts; at the same moment a brisk discharge of musquetry was made upon me. A volunteer who stood about thirty or forty paces behind me was shot in the left shoulder, and fell.

* This "fatiguing march" was one of little more than a league. The remark is of no farther importance than as it serves towards elucidating the history of this "terrestrial paradise," where to "travel but four foot by the square a-foot," as Falstaff says, "is to break one's wind!"

Having executed the business entrusted to me by the General, I went back to collect some volunteers who were scattered about the plain ; and having by their assistance removed the wounded man, I had him conveyed to Pompey's Column, where all the Staff Officers were assembled.

The General ordered the charge to be beat, and an attack to be made upon all points. Our troops flew to the ramparts, and got over them in an instant,* in spite

* As, Heaven knows ! they might well do ; for we can assure our readers, from the testimony of persons well acquainted with those famous "ramparts," that many a park wall in this country presents a more formidable aspect. The only danger to be apprehended in this terrible escalade was, lest the assailants should pull down the old wall upon themselves—and this, we find, they actually did do ; for General Menou, and several others, were wounded by the fall of the stones which gave way beneath their grasp !

If the catastrophe had been less tragical, we should have indulged a smile at the parade of military arrangements made by Bonaparte for getting possession of this defenceless place. "It would have surrendered," says Boyer (Part I. p. 132.) "at the first summons ;" and so it undoubtedly would—but then how scurvily would this have sounded in the pages of the Morning Chronicle, and the Redacteur ! Hence the reconnoitering "within pistol-shot," the beating of the générale, the scrambling over the wall, &c. &c. Unparalleled achievements, and, in the judgment of the aforesaid papers, worthy of everlasting renown ! Be it so : and yet, we trust, very few of our readers will be so dazzled by their splendour, as not to see that the instantaneous capture of the city renders the subsequent massacre of its innocent inhabitants altogether inexcusable. Something may be allowed to rage, when success is at length obtained after an obstinate and destructive resistance. But Mr. Wakefield himself must excuse us, if we do not feel inclined to make much allowance for a man, or more properly a monster, who, at one and the same

of a shower of bullets and stones, which killed and wounded a great number of them. The General hastily ascended a small eminence, which commanded both the city and the port, that he might make his observations on the attack. Kleber and Menou were wounded; the one by a musket-ball in the head, the other by a fall. Both are likely to recover.

One of the forts having been carried by assault, the General sent me after the prisoners, in hopes of procuring some intelligence from them; he then dispatched me back to order the *générale* to be beat, and the troops who were in the city, and engaged with the inhabitants, to evacuate it immediately, and arrange themselves in order of battle under the eminence on which he then stood.

Having re-entered the city, and observed the desperate conduct of the Alexandrines, who continued to assail our troops with stones and musquetry from the roofs and windows of their houses, I found myself reduced to the necessity of lining the streets which I passed with small bodies of men, to prevent those hostile measures. In spite of all my precautions, however, several of my people were wounded by the stones.

I came up to a small fort, which was garrisoned by about thirty Turks; they discharged several muskets at me; but seeing that my numbers were continually increasing, they made signs of capitulating, by grounding their arms, and uttering the most dreadful cries.

As the General had ordered me not to attack any of the forts, but merely to block up such as lay in my way,

moment, invests and carries an open place (for such in fact it is), and then deliberately murders men, women, and children, in their very mosques!

by the troops of the different divisions, I judged it proper to accept of this capitulation; but at the very instant that I ordered the troops to cease firing on the fort, a musket-ball from an adjoining house killed a grenadier close to my side. He fell across my knees, without uttering a single word, and had nearly thrown me down by his fall. As I could not precisely point out the house from whence the shot was fired, and had before me a fort, of which I was scarcely yet the master, I was obliged to continue my route without taking VENGEANCE* for the death of the brave grenadier. Soon after I found myself before the principal fort of the city; it was already blockaded by Menou's division; and in a few minutes after, the Captain of a Turkish ship of war, dispatched by the Commander in Chief, put it into our hands, as well as all the others which yet remained to be taken.

We had a vast number of men killed and wounded in our attack upon the city, and during our march, by the Bedouins, whom we fell in with soon after our landing; they hung on our rear, and killed and took a great number of stragglers. These Arabs resemble the ancient Scythians: the world is their country, they live on rapine,† &c.

* * * * *

* This was a great pity—but be of good heart, citizen; Bonaparte will enter the town as soon as it is completely in the power of his troops, and then you, and they, and all, will have full leisure to take “VENGEANCE,” not only on the man who killed the grenadier that would have killed him, but on his wife and child, who are calling on heaven and earth for mercy!

† Here follows a short account of the Arabs, which, as it is merely a repetition of what is said respecting them in the former

These Arabs are divided into different tribes, which are frequently at war with each other. They are very formidable, never associate with the rest of the world, nor can ever be persuaded to adopt their customs, or their manner of living. This, perhaps, is the true secret of their power.

The Proclamation of General Bonaparte, (of which you will, undoubtedly, see a copy), having been communicated to them, they instantly demanded permission to become our friends, and even to make war in conjunction with us, against the Mameloucs, the oppressors of the country! They brought the General about thirty of our people whom they had made prisoners. Before they heard of the Proclamation, they had treated these unfortunate men in the harshest manner; their women especially, made them suffer the most cruel torments; and even the children at the breast amused themselves with tearing their hair, and scratching their face with their nails; all which they were obliged to endure with patience, for fear of worse treatment from the men. As soon, however, as the Proclamation was made known to them, the French were treated with kindness.

I have snatched a few instants from my duty, to give you these details. We are so busy that we have not time to lie down, or to take a morsel of wretched food.

letter, we have omitted. Poor Shechy is a miserable historian; instead of comparing these people to the ancient Scythians, of whom he knows nothing, and who had very little in common with the Arabs, he should have looked out for a resemblance nearer home. If the sentence had run thus—"These Arabs resemble the modern French: the world is their country, they live on rapine, &c." few, we believe, would have thought of disputing its accuracy.

It is impossible for you to conceive the misery of our present situation ; which, yet, is infinitely preferable to that which we are about to experience in the course of three or four days, in the midst of the Desert. We shall march the 6th or 7th.

I am indebted to the activity and good sense of my servant, for a camel, which I am already preparing to load with two goat-skin bags ; one for water, and the other for vinegar ; happy if I find it sufficient for the journey ! This camel will also carry a part of my baggage, and that of my comrades, and five days provisions, consisting merely of hard biscuit, which we have been obliged to procure from the ships.

Desaix's division is already on its march ; Regnier's is to follow it ; Kleber's will proceed on the morning, and Menou's on the evening of the 6th. We shall speedily see the unravelling of all these projects ; at present, Cairo is the mark to which we tend. The Mameloucs once beaten, I know not if we shall carry our views farther.

I am asleep with the pen in my hand. I am absolutely worn out with fatigue. As soon as I can find a few moments of tranquillity, I will take the liberty of sending you a more circumstantial and a more satisfactory account of what we have seen and done.

Have the goodness to present my respects to Madame Dumuy, and pray let me hear from you. You cannot form an idea of the fatigues we have undergone. If we ever return from this expedition, we shall richly deserve Paradise. On board the fleet, we regretted France ; in Egypt, I fear, we shall have to regret the fleet ! In spite, however, of all the obstacles which we experience, success will crown our enterprize—nay,

obstacles themselves are, with us, infallible indications of victory!*

I am so pressed for the regulations, &c. of the army, that I cannot add another word. The nephew of Lannés, who is at my side, desires to be remembered to you.

MAR. SHECHY.

* Excellent. To augur success from the very circumstances which oppose it, is, we believe, peculiar to the French.

No. III.

Grand Caire, 8 Thermidor, an 6.

CRIANT "la faim, la soif, et la chaleur," nous sommes arrivés, après avoir battu les Mamelouks, au Grand Caire. J'ai entendu, mon cher papa, de très-près les boulets et les balles, mais elles ne m'ont heureusement pas touché. J'ai regretté bien souvent de n'être pas venu à Paris, et je me suis cru quatre ou cinq fois dans l'impossibilité d'y retourner jamais. Enfin nous sommes ici un peu plus tranquilles, et notre position est un peu améliorée.

Il vous seroit difficile de vous figurer, mon cher papa, le pays, les habitans, les mœurs, que nous avons trouvés ici. Je suis persuadé que la relation, à laquelle je travaille dans ce moment, vous intéressera et vous divertira.

Il paroît que, d'après ce que l'on m'a dit, l'armée ne restera pas toute ici. Une partie doit descendre dans la Basse Egypte jusqu'à Damiette, une autre ira à l'Isthme de Suez, et une troisième division suivra le cours du Nil, en le remontant jusqu'à Thèbes. Telle est la distribution que l'on fait dans ce moment de nos forces. Je ne vous la garantis pas, et il me paroît qu'il y auroit quelque inconvénient à suivre une telle marche.

Les Mamelouks, quoique battus, peuvent se réunir. Leur manière de faire la guerre autorise à croire que le pays sur lequel nous sommes déjà passés, et dont nous les avons chassé, ne doit pas être regardé comme pris, puisque rien ne les empêche de revenir sur leurs

pas. Dans un pays où l'ennemi n'attache aucune importance à conserver une position, il est difficile de le décider à abandonner le terrain. Ce qui assuroit nos conquêtes en Italie, c'est que l'Autrichien ne vouloit pas passer outre du moment qu'il savoit devoir rencontrer sur son passage une forteresse occupée par les François. Les Mamelouks nous attaquent à cinquante pas, fuyent et reviennent le lendemain nous attaquer, presque dans la même position dont nous les avons chassés.

Ils s'occupent dans ce moment, à ce qu'il paroît, à réunir des forces considérables ; mais rien ne peut nous intimider. Au reste ; il faut rendre justice à leur peu de mérite et de talent. Si j'eusse commandé leurs troupes, qui d'ailleurs sont très-braves, les Français ne seroient pas arrivés si tranquillement au Caire. Aucune tactique ni aucun élément de l'art de la guerre ne les conduit. Ce sont des hommes bien montés à cheval, et bien armés, qui viennent se faire massacrer. Le plus grand éloge que l'on puisse faire de notre expédition, c'est de dire, que les Français ont marché pendant près de quinze jours sans presque boire ni manger. Je crois que nous sommes de ces diables qui faisoient remuer les yeux aux Madones de Rome ; nous faisons même des miracles plus étonnants.

Adieu, mon cher papa, je vous embrasse et vous prie de vouloir bien dire à tous mes frères et sœurs que bien souvent dans les déserts de l'Afrique mon imagination s'est tournée vers eux, et que j'ai bien souvent juré que si jamais je me trouvais au milieu d'eux, je ne les quitterais jamais.

Ni les voyages ni les expéditions ne rendent heureux !
Adieu.

TRANSLATION.

Grand Cairo (8 Thermidor), July 26th.

CRYING* “hunger! thirst! and heat!” We are arrived, after beating the Mameloucs, at Grand Cairo. I have heard, my dear father, the bullets and balls whizzing very near me—happily none of them touched me. Oh, how often I regretted that I did not go to Paris before I sailed! more than once or twice I thought it quite impossible that I should ever go there again. At present we are a little more tranquil, and our situation appears to be somewhat improved.

It would be difficult for you, my dear father, to form an idea of the country, the people, or the customs, which we have found here. I am confident that the account

* The cover of this letter, which is without any signature, is mislaid. The writer of it is a worthy disciple of the new school: ignorant, impious, and impure. The most shameless inmates of a brothel, hardened by mutual consciousness of guilt, would not dare to trust each other with the rank confessions which this miserable profligate pours, without scruple, into the ears of his wretched father.

It is unnecessary to add, that every thing of this nature is carefully suppressed, through the whole of the Correspondence. With this security, even the present letter may be read to advantage; it contains some strictures on the Mameloucs, which do credit to the writer's sagacity, and appear to have escaped the notice of his superiors.

of them, which I am at present preparing, will both interest and amuse you.

It appears, from what I can collect, that the whole army is not destined to remain here. One part of it will fall down into Lower Egypt, as far as Damietta; another will proceed to the Isthmus of Suez, and a third will ascend the Nile as high as Thebes. Such is the distribution which common report makes of the army at this instant—I will not answer for its being correct; and, indeed, it strikes me, that such a division of our forces would be rather injudicious.

The Mameloucs, though beaten, may re-assemble. Their manner of making war authorizes the idea, that the country which we have traversed, and from which we have just driven them, ought not to be looked upon as conquered; since there is nothing to prevent their re-occupying it. In a country where the enemy attaches no kind of importance to the maintaining of a particular position, it is very difficult to determine him to quit the ground altogether. What secured our conquests in Italy, was the absolute refusal of the Austrians to advance, the moment they discovered their route lay near a fortress garrisoned by the French. The Mameloucs attack us at the distance of fifty paces, flee, and return the next day to attack us, in the very position from which we had driven them.

It appears that they are at present engaged in collecting a very considerable force—but we feel no alarm at it. For the rest; we ought to do justice to the little merit they boast: if I had been at the head of their troops, which are, after all, most gallant ones, the French would not have arrived quite so easily at Cairo. No trait of tactics, no appearance of the slightest know-

ledge of the art of war, is found in any of their movements. They are men perfectly well mounted, and well armed, who come to be massacred! Thus you see, that the greatest eulogium we have yet merited in this expedition, is for having marched near fifteen days, as it were, without eating or drinking. I fancy we are near akin to those devils who made the Madonnas of Rome roll their eyes.* We work miracles still more astonishing here.

* The writer alludes to the commotions excited against his countrymen by the miraculous indications here attributed to the Madonna, and on every great occasion expected from her images by the Roman populace. We say nothing of the opinion itself—but the French use of it may yet be pointed out. It is made the vehicle of every kind of vulgar abuse against religion itself, and its divine economy. The profane and senseless allusion to Moses, in another letter, and the assumption to themselves, in numberless passages, of miracles, “as good as the world ever saw”—all these are marks of the same spirit which has already met our solemn reprehension;—a spirit which laughs at the power of Heaven, and mocks all virtue upon earth; which commits “all iniquity with greediness,” and selects a parent’s bosom as the depository of its obscenities!

This imaginary interposition of Providence took place in the winter of 1797-8. Those who are in the habit of reading the Jacobin papers, cannot have forgot the dull profanity with which they abounded on the occasion. The M. C., always foremost in impiety, and yet vain of its recent triumph over the Saviour of the world, rioted in daily sarcasms on “priestcraft, “and superstition, and such-like old lumber-stuff of Christianity.” BACCHUS was again placed “at the right-hand of the “Father,” and there appeared to be no end of the degradation and insult meditated against the persecuted JESUS, when the news happily arrived that the French had dethroned and driven the Pope from his home—and the interests of blasphemy were for awhile forgotten in the savage howl of exultation over the mis-

Adieu, my dear father : I embrace you, and beg you will have the goodness to tell all my brothers and sisters that many a time, in the Deserts of Africa, my thoughts have been directed towards them, and that many a time

fortunes of an helpless old man ; or, in the words of the Morning Chronicle, of " an infirm and bed-ridden dotard ! "

The following account of the transaction alluded to, is from a resident on the spot. It is as simple as it is correct, and may serve to shew those who have no religion, that they should not judge from their own feelings, of the sincerity of those (whether priests or laity), who have a great deal.—

" The images of the Madonna had moved their eyes in different parts of the town, which, by favourable exposition, was supposed to be a manifestation of her peculiar favour to the Roman people. This miracle, however futile or false it may seem to men of reflection, had so powerful an influence over the minds of the multitude, as to produce an enthusiasm little short of madness.

" I know it is common to impute every effect of religious superstition to the knavery of a designing priesthood. Hence, this popular credulity may be supposed to have originated in artifice ; but, I believe, if the whole affair were to be truly investigated, it would be found to have had its origin in the belief of a poor old man, who was paying his devotion to a Madonna at the Fontana di Trevi—and, as in the elements of the Catholic faith, the best informed are taught to believe (and do believe,) those things they cannot comprehend, so it ought not to be wondered at, that those who know less and believe more, should have felt themselves interested in a sign, that, to them, portended the salvation of their religion and their country." —(It should be observed here, that this was subsequent to the death of the infamous Duphot, when the French were in full march for Rome, breathing nothing but rage and revenge).—
" Of this opinion I am the more strongly persuaded, as no steps were ever taken to apply or direct this religious phrenzy to

I have sworn, if ever I was fortunate enough to find myself in their company again, I would never, never, quit them more.

Neither voyages nor wars make me happy! Adieu.

“the advantage of those who might otherwise have been suspected to have been the authors of it.”

To return to the letter.—We doubt much whether the French will work any miracles in Egypt;—one, we believe, will be wrought on them, and, in the words of the author, an astonishing one. The hand of the Lord is stretched out, the hand of him who “ALONE worketh great marvels,” and we may address the nations of the earth in the sublime and awakening language in which MOSES, on the same spot, once addressed the Israelites.—“FEAR YE NOT, STAND STILL, AND SEE THE SALVATION OF THE LORD, WHICH HE WILL SHEW YOU TO-DAY. FOR THE ENEMY, WHOM YE HAVE SEEN TO-DAY, YE SHALL SEE THEM AGAIN NO MORE FOR EVER.” Exodus, ch. xiv. ver. 13.

No. IV.

*Egypte. No. 6.**Grand Caire, le 8 Thermidor, an 6.*

C'EST après une marche très-fatigante, sans pain pour manger, ni eau pour boire, que l'armée est arrivée ici, après plusieurs combats dans lesquels elle est toujours restée victorieuse. J'ai regretté bien souvent, mon cher Miot, que ton amitié pour moi se soit portée à me mettre de cette expédition. J'ai vu assassiner plusieurs de mes camarades, et mon existence au milieu de tant d'événemens extraordinaires est une énigme pour moi. Le bon Sucy lui-même n'a pas échappé au malheur qui nous poursuivoit, il a été blessé au bras par les Arabes, et il paroît qu'il en restera estropié. Notre avancement dans les terres a été signalé par la perte d'un Général Français et de quarante employés. A quinze pas d'une colonne un soldat qui restoit en arrière étoit perdu.

Savary a trompé sur l'Egypte. Ce n'est pas ce beau pays qu'il vante tant, ni cette rosée balsamique que l'on respire le matin. C'est le pays de la misère. Les habitans sont des sauvages qui ont de toutes les manières encouru la disgrâce de la nature. Ils n'ont absolument rien pour eux, et l'on doit se croire toujours au milieu d'une bande d'assassins, lorsque l'on se trouve dans quelque village de la Basse Egypte.

L'armée vint de la première journée à Demanhour, et de-là à Rachminie. Le Général préféra faire un détour et arriver plus vite sur les bords du Nil. J'ai offert, dans ma traversée d'Alexandrie à Demanhour, un louis d'un verre d'eau. J'avois bu la mienne et l'avois distribuée entre mes amis.

Dans la relation de notre expédition, je m'étendrai sur les malheurs que nous avons éprouvés, ils sont innombrables et c'est avec le dégoût dans l'âme que toute l'armée est arrivée ici : elle avoit placé toute son espérance dans cette ville ; combien elle a été trompée ! et malgré qu'on nous ait assuré que nous serions très-bien au Grand Caire ; l'unique desir des Généraux et même des soldats est de s'en retourner.

Enfin, mon cher ami, c'est un miracle des plus miraculeux que je ne sois pas mort, ni malade. Il n'en est pas de même de notre pauvre Milord ; je ne crois pas qu'il supporte longtems le séjour de ce pays. Il n'y a ni foin ni avoine, et les chevaux doivent se nourrir de fèves et d'un peu de paille. S'il peut se rappeler son séjour à Turin, il doit être bien à plaindre.

Je n'ai cependant pas oublié, au milieu de tous mes maux, que j'ai toujours supportés avec courage, le bien que je pouvois retirer de mon séjour ici, et mes observations ont porté généralement sur tout. J'étudie maintenant la langue, mais je suis sans grammaire, et la nécessité seule sera mon maître.

J'ai vu de Gisé où étoit situé le quartier général, le jour de la fameuse affaire de Boulac, les belles Pyramides. Si nous voulons les voir de près, il faudra nous réunir trois ou quatre cents. Il est impossible de sortir de la ville, et Boza dernièrement fut poursuivi par quinze

Arabes pour avoir commis l'imprudence de s'écarter à une portée de fusil.

Tu sens le danger d'herboriser, et tu connois que ton herbier doit être un peu négligé. Tu me diras : dans la route tu pouvois au moins ramasser les plantes que tu rencontres. Je te dirai franchement qu'il m'est venu rarement dans la tête, avec les inquiétudes que nous avons et les maux que nous éprouvions, que je pusse rencontrer une plante qui attirât assez mes regards pour me la faire remarquer. Les botanistes sont mal placés à la guerre. Tous ce que je puis, mon cher ami, c'est de te promettre que du moment que l'on pourra sortir de la ville sans crainte d'être assassiné, je m'occuperai sur le champ de t'organizer un petit herbier.

Je ne te parlerai pas dans ce moment du pays, ni des mœurs des habitans. Quoi qu'ils te soient déjà connus, je me résume, lorsque j'en aurai davantage le tems, de te donner quelques détails qui peut-être t'intéresseront.

Tu te rappelles sans doute combien l'aspect ou même l'idée d'un criminel mort ou que l'on alloit tuer, me faisoit impression. La guerre chasse facilement cette foiblesse. J'ai vu des morts, des blessés, des têtes, des bras épars, et mon cœur ne m'a plus manqué. Je connois donc maintenant la possibilité de s'habituer au carnage. J'ai marché au milieu de trois mille Mamelouks tués ; Milord trembloit sous mes jambes, mes yeux s'arrêtoient sur ces victimes de l'ambition et de la vanité, et je dis, " nous traversons des mers, nous bravons une flotte Anglaise, nous débarquons dans un pays qui ne pensoit pas à nous, nous pillons les villages, ruinons les habitans, et violons leurs femmes, nous risquons de mourir de faim et de soif, nous sommes sur le point d'être tous

assassinés, et tout cela, pourquoi ? nous l'ignorons encore."

Le dégoût dans l'armée est général. Toutes les administrations sont désorganisées. Il existe entre nous tous un égoïsme et une humeur qui fait que nous ne pouvons pas vivre ensemble. Je m'occupe quant à moi, et ne m'ennuie pas. Je suis toujours avec le même commissaire des guerres, mais tu me permettras de t'observer que je n'ai nulle envie d'attendre l'âge de vingt-cinq ans pour être commissaire des guerres. Ne m'oublies donc pas, et pense que le plus vite que tu pourras me faire revenir auprès de toi ce sera le mieux.

La carrière que je parcours dans ce moment est entièrement avilie, et nous en sommes tous les jours aux prises avec les Généraux. Le Général en Chef est le seul qui nous écoute, mais il ne peut pas faire autrement que de donner raison au militaire. Il le ménage et il craint que l'armée, qui murmure déjà quelque peu, ne vienne à prendre un caractère plus sérieux. Enfin, penses que Sucey est tombé beaucoup, que depuis Alexandrie il n'a pas fait le service par la raison qu'il a eu l'imprudence de s'embarquer sur la flotille pour assurer, disoit-il, la subsistance de l'armée, et qu'il s'est trouvé, comme il devoit le prévoir, dans l'impossibilité de rejoindre l'armée. Enfin remarques encore que le climat fait que nous sommes devenus, malgré nous, mous, et que nous avons beaucoup de peine à nous déterminer de mettre un pied devant l'autre.

Je laisse à ta sagesse et à ta prudence à réfléchir là-dessus, et je suis bien persuadé que ton amitié pour moi fera tout ce qu'elle jugera le plus convenable. J'attendrai avec impatience une réponse à cette lettre.

La blessure de Sucey l'empêche d'écrire, et il paroît

qu'il ne pourra conserver que les deux premiers doigts de sa main. Il supporte sa blessure avec patience, mais il ne voit pas aussi tranquillement l'espace immense qui nous sépare de notre pays.

Je m'occupe très-sérieusement de la relation de notre expédition, et j'ai déjà ramassé plusieurs matériaux, que je vais m'occuper de mettre en ordre. Adieu, je t'aime toujours, adieu, mon cher Miot, quand pourrai-je te serrer dans mes bras? écris-moi toujours.

P. S. *Le 15 Thermidor.*

Je pars dans l'instant avec le Général Le Clerc, pour une expédition secrète. Je laisse donc encore le Grand Caire, mais j'espère y revenir.

Sucy va un peu mieux. Il désire revenir, mais il paroît qu'il ne veut pas me ramener avec lui. Ecris-lui en conséquence. Je t'embrasse encore.

TRANSLATION.*

Grand Cairo (8th Thermidor), July 26.

It is after a most fatiguing march, without bread to eat, or water to drink, that the army is arrived here,

* At length we have a letter from one of the innumerable Savans, whom Bonaparte dragged in his train on this far-famed expedition. What he writes merits, and we hope will receive, the deepest attention; it confirms, almost beyond the possibility of a doubt, what was suggested in the Introduction to the First Part, that the army was meant to be sacrificed; and leaves us no

and after many actions, in which it has constantly been victorious. I have regretted a thousand times, my dear Miot, that your friendship for me ever prompted you to engage me in this expedition. I have seen numbers of my associates assassinated, and my own existence, amidst so many extraordinary events, is a riddle which I cannot yet comprehend. The worthy Sucy himself has not escaped the ill fortune by which we are all pursued; he has been wounded in the arm by the Arabs, and will probably lose the use of it entirely. Our march into the country was signalized by the loss of a French general, and of forty subordinate officers.* A soldier who had only loitered fifteen paces behind one of the columns was shot !

other regret than that (since it was to be done) it was not done at home by noyades, mitraillades, or by any other of those sweeping methods of destruction which the Directory know so well to employ, and which have, at various times, choked the Seine with the carcasses, and swelled the Loire and the Rhone with the blood of all that was innocent and virtuous; of an incorrupt peasantry, of children, women, and priests.

Had this been done; had the importunate claimants of Toulon and Genoa, and the daring revolters against the authority of Massena at Rome, been thus quietly disposed of in the "good old way," it would have saved us many a pang which we have felt in perusing these Letters; from seeing that the vengeance of the Directory could not fall upon the refractory army without involving in their destruction an unoffending, and, in their own opinion perhaps, a happy people, whose hard fate is depicted in the course of this well written letter, in language that must wring every feeling heart. We conclude with again recommending it to the reader's most serious attention.

* *Employés*, in the original. It may also mean persons in official situations about the army, such as commissaries, agents, clerks, &c. &c.

Savary has deceived us all with respect to Egypt. It is not that charming country of which he boasts so much ; nor that balsamic dew that is drawn in with the morning air. It is the country of misery ! its inhabitants are savages, who have, in every respect, incurred the disgrace of nature. They have absolutely nothing on their side ; and you may always conclude, that you are in the midst of a band of assassins, when you find yourself in any village of Lower Egypt.*

The army marched to Demanhour the first day, and from thence to Rahmanie. The general preferred making a detour,† that he might arrive the sooner at the

* Oh, if the Egyptians wrote letters ! But we wonder whether our Savant ever thought of asking himself what THE FRENCH WERE in the midst of these same villages of Lower Egypt ? most probably he never did. If any curious person, however, should be tempted to put the question, we will endeavour to satisfy him. They WERE "a band of assassins" infinitely more savage than those they found there, led on by a hypocritical Cartouche, who snuffed the scent of carnage like a vulture ; and, amidst the most whining professions of universal benevolence, sacrificed the companions of his victories and his crimes to the fears of the Directory, and consigned them to inevitable destruction, with the same indifference that he did the remote and peaceable possessors of a few mud huts, and a waste of sand !

† To make a detour by way of getting the quicker to a given point, would be admirable in the mouth of an Irishman ; indeed it is very well any where.

Setting aside the writer's ignorance of the topography of the country, the simple truth is, that Bonaparte (who, like the old Hermit of Prague, is supposed by these people to have some extraordinary reason for every thing he does) had no "preference" in the matter. He merely took the common road ; a camel-driver would have done the same. In fact there was no other ; unless he had gone round by Rosetta, which, at that time, was hardly practicable.

banks of the Nile. I offered, on the march from Alexandria to Demanhour, a louis d'or for a glass of water : having drank and distributed all my own amongst my friends.

In the relation of our expedition, I shall enlarge upon the miseries we endured ; they are innumerable : and it is with bitter disgust of soul, that the whole army is arrived at Cairo. It had placed all its hopes in this city ; how much have they been deceived ! And notwithstanding we were told that we should all be satisfied here, the only desire of the generals and of the soldiers themselves, is to get back to France.

As for myself, my dear friend, it is by the most miraculous of all miracles that I am neither dead nor sick. Poor Milord * is not quite so fortunate. I am afraid he will not be able to support this country long ; here is neither hay nor oats, and horses must therefore be content with beans, and a little chopped straw. If he has any recollection of his manner of life at Turin, he is mightily to be pitied.

However, in the midst of all my sufferings, which I have hitherto supported with courage, I have not overlooked the advantages to be derived from my temporary residence here, and my observations have been directed generally to every object that has presented itself. I am now engaged in studying the language ; but I have no grammar, and, indeed, am likely to have no master but necessity.

* His horse, which, from the name, we suppose to be an English one. The joke of calling him Milord is not a very refined one, it must be confessed ; but Savans have now and then odd ideas of humour. The animal, however, appears to have fallen into the hands of a kind master.

I have seen from Gizeh, the place of head-quarters on the day of the famous battle of Boulac, the beautiful* Pyramids. If we wish to have a nearer view of them, we shall be obliged to go in a body of three or four hundred! It is impossible to stir from the city; and Boza was lately pursued by a number of Arabs, for having imprudently ventured about a musket-shot beyond it.

You see now the danger of herborizing, and will consequently surmise that your herbal is rather neglected. "Yes," say you, "but in your marches you may certainly collect such plants as fall in your way." Shall I speak frankly? It has scarce ever entered my head, what with the troubles we have had, and the hardships we have undergone, that I should ever meet with a plant sufficiently curious to attract my notice. Botanists are woefully misplaced in an army! All that I can do, my dear friend, is to promise you, that the moment I can walk out of the city without fear of being assassinated, I will seriously set about preparing a little herbal for you.

I shall say nothing at present either of the country, or of the manners of the inhabitants. Although they are in some degree known to you, yet I shall venture, when I have a little leisure, to send you a few details on those subjects, which may not perhaps be altogether uninteresting.

You cannot have forgot how much the sight, nay even the idea of a criminal executed, or about to be executed, used to affect me. War is a sovereign remedy for this

* This is a strange epithet for the Pyramids; but the French have learned from Savary to talk of the stupendous monuments of ancient Egypt with a silly affectation of fondness, that is really disgusting.

weakness. I have seen the dead and the dying, scattered heads and limbs, and my heart failed me no longer ; here is a sufficient proof, then, of the possibility of accustoming one's-self to carnage.* I rode through the midst of three thousand slaughtered Mameloucs ; Milord trembled under me, while I fixed my eyes on those poor victims of ambition and vanity, and said to myself,—
 “ WE CROSS THE SEA, WE BRAVE THE ENGLISH FLEET, WE DISEMBARK IN A COUNTRY WHICH NEVER THOUGHT OF US, WE PILLAGE THEIR VILLAGES, RUIN THEIR INHABITANTS, AND VIOLATE THEIR WIVES ; WE WANTONLY RUN THE HAZARD OF DYING WITH HUNGER AND THIRST ; WE ARE EVERY ONE OF US ON THE POINT OF BEING ASSASSINATED ; AND ALL THIS FOR WHAT ? IN TRUTH, WE HAVE NOT YET DISCOVERED ! ”

The disgust of the army is universal. All the administrations are disorganized. There exists among us a selfishness, a fretfulness that absolutely incapacitates us from associating together. With respect to myself, I plunge into business, and thus escape the general *ennui*. I am still with the same commissary of war ; but you must allow me to observe to you, that I have no in-

* There is a passage in Macbeth so perfectly applicable to the sentiment before us, that we cannot resist the temptation of laying it before the reader.

Macb. I have almost forgot the taste of fear.
 The time has been, my senses would have cool'd
 To hear a night-shriek ; and my fell of hair
 Would at a dismal treatise rouse, and stir
 As life were in't. I have supp'd full with horrors ;
 Direness, familiar to my slaughterous thoughts,
 Cannot once start me.

clination to wait till I am five-and-twenty, to become a commissary myself. Do not forget me then, and, above all be assured, that the sooner you can obtain my recall, the better it will be for me.

The career in which I am engaged at present, is a most humiliating one, and we are constantly squabbling with the generals. The Commander in Chief is the only one who pays us any attention ; but he is obliged, at the same time, to wink at every thing in the officers. He treats them with great delicacy, and evidently fears that the army, which already begins to murmur, will at no great distance of time, proceed to something more alarming. In a word, take into your consideration too, that Sucy has lost much of his influence ; that since he left Alexandria, he has executed no part of his office, on account of his having had the imprudence to go on board the flotilla (to insure, as he pretended, the subsistence of the troops), and that he found himself, as he ought to have foreseen, without the possibility of re-joining them. Finally, take notice, that in consequence of the climate, we are become, in spite of ourselves, listless and inactive ; and that we have the greatest difficulty in determining ourselves to put one leg before the other.

I leave to your prudence and good sense to reflect on what I have said ; confident that your friendship for me will lead you to what is fittest and best. I shall look for your answer with impatience.

Sucy's wound prevents him from writing ; it appears that he will lose all but the two fore fingers of his right hand : he supports his misfortune, however, with patience ; which is more than he does the immense space that separates us from our country.

I am very seriously engaged on the history of our expedition: having already collected a vast quantity of materials, which I shall immediately set about putting in order. Adieu; I love you entirely. Adieu, my dear Miot; when shall I have the satisfaction of locking you in my arms? write to me, pray write.

P. S. (15 *Thermidor*) August 2d.

I am this moment setting out with General Le Clerc,*

* "O most lame and impotent conclusion!" Who would have expected to see our *Savant*, after his pathetic description of the miseries he had already contributed to bring upon this unfortunate country, who would have expected, we say, to find him gaily setting out upon a fresh expedition, of which the avowed (not "secret") purpose was the most flagitious and cruel robbery that was ever yet attempted! (we speak of the meditated seizure of the caravan.) But this is nature.

Hæc ubi locutus fœnerator Alphius

Jam jam futurus rusticus,

Omnem relegit Idibus pecuniam—

Quærit Calendis ponere!!!

When we first found in some of these letters, sentiments of enlarged kindness and humanity, we were inclined to give the writers credit for them, and spoke with cordial approbation (Part I. Introd. &c.) of feelings which we imagined to be as sincere as they were well expressed; but a farther acquaintance with this correspondence has almost cured us of our credulity: for we observed, as we proceeded, that there was not one of those moralizing, those humane declaimers, "however he might write the style of gods," that did not in some part or other of his letter, like the *Savant* before us, betray the same infuriate passion for pillage and destruction, as the General himself, although a keen perception of his own wretched situation, might lead him, at the moment, to deprecate and deplore the wide spreading ruin before him.

on a secret expedition. Here then I leave Grand Cairo, but I hope to return to it.

Sucy is a little better ; he wishes to return to France ; but does not seem disposed to take me with him. Write to him on the subject. Once more, I embrace you.

No. V.

*Au Grand Caire, le 9 Thermidor, an 6.**Cher Père et chère Mère,*

Je n'ai pas pu vous donner de mes nouvelles depuis mon embarquement, vu la difficulté des couriers. Je présume que ma dernière vous sera parvenu en date de Toulon.

Je voudrois pouvoir vous faire tous les détails de ce qui s'est passé depuis notre départ de Toulon jusqu'ici ; je vous dirai seulement de gros en gros ce qui s'est passé.

La conquête de l'Isle de Malthe a été le début de la campagne ; après quoi nous avons continué notre route jusqu'en Egypte. Le débarquement de l'armée s'est fait à Alexandrie, qui nous a coûté plusieurs braves militaires, qui ont perdu la vie sous les murs de cette ville ancienne. De là toute l'armée s'est mise en marche sur cinq divisions pour le Grand Caire, où nous sommes enfin arrivés avec toutes les difficultés imaginables, ayant souffert tout ce qu'il est possible de souffrir. Vous allez frémir en lisant ce qu'il suit : nous avons marché pendant dix-sept jours sans pain, sans vin, ni eau de vie, et cinq jours sans eau, dans des plaines brûlantes, et l'ennemi continuellement à nos trousses. Figurez-vous que nous avions à combattre des barbares, qui ne connoissoient point les droits de la guerre, et par conséquent qui exerçoient toutes les cruautés imaginables envers les malheureux Français qui tomboient entre leurs mains ;

aux uns ils leur coupoient les oreilles, à d'autres, le nez, à d'autres ils leur tranchoient la tête, et bien d'autres choses que je n'ai plus dans la mémoire, qui me font frissonner quand j'y pense.

Croirez-vous que pendant dix-sept jours notre nourriture n'a été que des pesteques et des melons d'eau, ce qui a fait qu'un nombre infini de militaires sont morts de faim et de soif ! Nous ne pouvions pas attendre aucun secours des habitans de ces contrées, attendu que ce sont des sauvages qui nous égorgeoient à demi-portée de fusil de nos colonnes.

Malgré les pauvres malheureux qui tomboient en défaillance, nous étions obligé de marcher toujours en colonnes serrées, parceque leur cavalerie profitoit du moment où nous étions en désordre, pour nous charger, et nous faisoient un mal considérable. Jours et nuits nous étions sous les armes, ce qui nous causoit des fatigues mortelles. Le mécontentement étoit peint sur tous les visages. Les soldats étoient sur le point de refuser de marcher. Plusieurs militaires se sont brûlé la cervelle, d'autres se sont précipité dans le Nil ; il s'est commis des choses terribles. Encore, dans cet intervalle nous avons livré plusieurs batailles que nous avons toutes gagnées !

Enfin, arrivés aux environs du Grand Caire, nous avons trouvé les Beys et Mamelouks, qui nous attendoient dans un camp retranché ; malgré tous les obstacles qui s'opposoient à nos succès, nous les avons battus à plate couture ; trois mille ont péri par le feu et l'eau ; il ne s'est pas fait de prisonniers. Il est bon de vous observer, qu'il n'y a que notre division qui s'est battue, qui n'étoit tout au plus que de cinq mille hommes. La dix-huitième et la trente-deuxième se sont encore

couverts de gloire dans cette bataille célèbre, que l'on appelle la Bataille des Pyramides.

Si nous avons bientôt le bonheur de rentrer en France, je ferai mon possible pour obtenir ma démission à quel prix que ce soit. Je ne puis plus me souffrir dans ce maudit métier. Toujours se battre, à perdre la vie à tous les instants de la journée ! Au reste, je crois en avoir assez fait ; que chacun en fasse un peu. Je ne suis plus avide de gloire, je l'ai été parcequ'il le falloit ; maintenant je veux vivre tranquille auprès de vous. Voilà où se borne toute mon ambition. L'on me fait entrevoir un avancement prochain, mais je n'en veux point. J'ai fait la guerre en Europe, mais je ne veux plus la faire en Afrique, dans un climat aussi chaud.

Donnez-moi de vos nouvelles ; j'aime à croire que la présente vous trouvera en bonne santé. Quant à la mienne elle est des meilleures : l'air de la mer m'a été salutaire.

Tous mes camarades ont été étonnés de ce que j'ai pu résister à tant de maux, et dans un climat où la terre semble un brasier. Je finis en vous embrassant de tout mon cœur, et suis avec respect,

Votre fils,

GAY, Capitaine.

TRANSLATION.

Cairo (9 Thermidor), July 27th.

Dear Father and Mother,

I HAVE not been able to send you a line since my embarkation, on account of the difficulty attending the couriers. The letter which I wrote you from Toulon was, I take it for granted, duly received.

I would willingly give you a detailed account of every thing which has passed since our leaving that port; but I must content myself at present, with a general and cursory view.

Our campaign opened with the capture of Malta; after which we continued our route towards Egypt. The disembarkation was made at Alexandria, and cost us a number of brave men, who perished under the walls of that ancient city. From thence the whole army marched in five divisions for Grand Cairo; where we arrived with the utmost difficulty, after suffering every thing that was possible for man to suffer. You will shudder at reading what follows. We marched seventeen days without bread, wine, or brandy; and five without water, over burning sands, with the enemy close at our heels! figure to yourselves that we had to combat barbarians, wholly unacquainted with the rights of war, who exercised every species of cruelty upon the unhappy men who fell into their hands: cutting off the ears of one, the nose of another, the head of a

third, and many other things which have slipt my memory, and which I tremble whenever I think of.*

Would you believe that for seventeen days we had nothing to subsist on but water melons! Such, however, is the fact, and in consequence of it, an infinite number of the troops died of thirst and hunger! We could not expect any succour from the natives of these countries, seeing they are savages,† who murdered us within half a musket-shot of our own columns.

In spite of the number of poor wretches who dropt from mere weakness, we were obliged to continue our march in close order; because the enemy's cavalry took

* Captain Gay, who trembles to think on what he has forgot, has, not improbably, remembered what he never thought on! Though the conduct of the French, whose swords were yet reeking with the blood of their slaughtered brethren, would justify any retaliation on the part of the Arabs; yet we much doubt whether the practices here mentioned, ever took place. Shechy (No. I.) relates, that after the General's Proclamation, the prisoners were dismissed unhurt: indeed, we are convinced that these people never mangle such as fall into their hands; it is plunder, not blood, they seek, for properly speaking, the Arabs are not cruel.

† Here again is another precious sentiment. No assistance, it seems, was to be expected from the people whom they were destroying, because—they were savages! But Gay is right. The Swiss were no savages, nor the Flemings, nor the Dutch, nor the Italians, and *therefore* the French procured succour from them! and *therefore* they found degenerate wretches amongst them, eager to aid in rivetting the chains of their brethren, and zealous to edge the sword that was to pierce the bosom of their dearest connections! O may the nations that yet remain untrampled on, and unspoiled, profit from these letters, and in a rejection of all communication with their destroyers, imitate these unenlightened, or, if they will, "savage" Egyptians!

advantage of the slightest confusion in our ranks to fall upon us ; and always with considerable effect. Night and day we were under arms, so that our fatigues were altogether intolerable. Discontent was painted on every face, and the whole army was on the point of refusing to advance. A great number of soldiers blew out their brains, and many flung themselves into the Nile. HORRIBLE THINGS WERE DONE!* Add, that in this dreadful interval, we had many battles to fight ; all of which, however, we gained.

Arrived at length in the neighbourhood of Grand Cairo, we found the Mameloucs awaiting our arrival in an intrenched camp. In spite of all the obstacles which stood in the way of our success, they were totally defeated. Three thousand of them perished either by our fire, or in the river ; for we did not make a single prisoner. I must observe to you that ours was the only division which was engaged,† and that it consisted of no more than five thousand men. The 18th and 32d acquired new glory in this famous battle, which we now call the “ Battle of the Pyramids.”

If we have the happiness of returning speedily to

* There is great strength in this rude picture of the dreadful state of the army ; we scarce know whether it does not convey it more forcibly and distinctly to the mind, than the elaborate and eloquent description we have pointed out in the preceding letter. Gay himself seems to have been deeply affected with it, for we find him just below abjuring, with every mark of disgust, any longer continuance in the service.

† Gay is not correct here. We know from better authority than his, that four out of the five divisions were engaged ; though we believe the weight of the action fell chiefly upon Regnier's and Desaix'.

France, I will exert myself to the utmost to obtain my discharge at any price whatever. I can no longer endure this accursed business. Always hazarding my life, and at every hour of the day!—For the rest, I think I have done my part; let every one do a little.—I am no longer greedy of glory; I was once, I confess, because it was necessary to be so,—at present, my only wish is to pass my life in peace, with you. This is the sole object of my ambition. Some hopes of an approaching promotion are held out to me, but I want none of it. I have seen service in Europe, but I have no desire of seeing it in Africa, and in a country so hot as this.

Let me hear from you.—I please myself with thinking that the present will find you in good health. As to my own, it is excellent. The sea has been of infinite use to me. All my comrades are astonished at my being able to endure so many hardships, in a climate where the surface of the ground burns like fire!

I conclude, with embracing you, with all my heart; being, with respect,

Your Son,

GAY, *Capt.*

No. VI.

*Rosette, le 10 Thermidor, an 6.
Samedi, 28 Juillet, 1798.*

Mon cher Ramcy,

Je ne vous ai pas écrit depuis notre expédition de Malthe. Vous au rezreçu, j'espère, la lettre que je vous ai écrite du bord de mon vaisseau dans le port de Malthe : pour ne pas me répéter, je poursuis.

L'escadre et la flotte mirent à la voile le 1^{er} Messidor, et firent route vers l'Est. Le 6 nous découvrîmes les hautes montagnes couvertes de neige de l'Isle de Candie. Le 11, une frégate signala la terre, et c'étoit les côtes de la Barbarie. Le 11, nous découvrîmes des côtes extraordinairement plates et sabloneuses, parfaitement semblables à celles entre Calais et Gravelines.

Enfin le 13, à 5 heures du matin, nous aperçûmes la ville d'Alexandrie. Ce jour à quatre heures du soir on donna l'ordre du débarquement, qui s'effectua, malgré une mer assez forte, dans une baye favorable à l'Est, et à deux lieues de la ville. En cet endroit de la côte, est une tour dite des Mamelouks. Le 14, 6 à 7000 hommes sans aucune pièce d'artillerie assiégèrent cette ancienne et fameuse ville. Les Turcs tirèrent quelques coups de canon. Les François étoient déjà aux pieds des murs ruinés de son enceinte ; ils recevoient la mousqueterie et les pierres des Arabes. Ils montèrent à l'assaut par deux brèches qui existoient.

Les Généraux Kleber et Menou furent blessés, mais les Français entrèrent victorieux dans la ville à midi. Le soir les Arabes et Turcs tirèrent sur les Français de leurs maisons, nous y perdîmes du monde. On punit cette révolte, mais on se montra très-modéré. Cette première conquête a coûté cinq à six-cents hommes de part et d'autre.

Je débarquai le 15, sans être encore appelé, je parcourus l'espace de deux lieues avant d'arriver à la ville. J'eus le bonheur avec mon frère aîné d'y parvenir sans malheur. Nous vîmes quelqu'uns de nos morts. Les Français en général eurent la plus grande peine à pourvoir à leurs vivres, et à se caser. Le 17, une députation de douze à quinze Arabes Bédouins vinrent offrir leur alliance au nom de leur tribu. Le Général en Chef Bonaparte leur fit quelques présents et leur donna dix louis à chacun. Ils devoient revenir le lendemain ; ils ont manqué à leur parole. Il paroît qu'ils ne sont venus que pour espionner.

Les 15, 16, 17, 18, et 19, les divisions des Généraux Dessaix, Kleber, et autres filèrent sur Damanhour, ville assez considérable, située sur le Canal d'Alexandrie à 10 lieues de cette ville. Le quartier général, le Général en Chef, et le Général Cafarelli suivirent l'armée à travers le Désert.

Toute la partie des sciences et arts qui eut ordre de débarquer le 18, resta à Alexandrie jusqu'à nouvel ordre. Notre brigade des ingénieurs civils y est encore, à l'exception de trois dont je suis un de ceux que l'on semble avoir détaché pour suivre l'armée ; mais jusqu'au 10 Messidor, que j'eus ordre d'aller à Rosette, je parcourus la ville d'Alexandrie. Nous cherchâmes à reconnoître son ancienne splendeur à travers des monts de ruines

qui ne sont aujourd'hui que celles d'Alexandrie rebatie par les Arabes. Cà et là on ne trouve que des colonnes de marbre de toute espèce. J'ai été voir la Colonne d'Alexandre Severe, dite improprement de Pompée ; elle est placée hors de l'enceinte actuelle, elle a 104 pieds de hauteur en granite rouge ; son fût est de 9 pieds de diamètre, en a 56 de longueur, et est d'un seul morceau. En rentrant dans les murs on voit aussi deux pyramides, dites les Aiguilles de Cléopatre. Enfin elles sont situées sur le bord de la mer, elles ont toutes deux 56 à 60 pieds de hauteur sur 7 pieds de face ; l'une est élevée, et l'autre couchée par terre. Les hyéroglyphes dont les quatre faces sont couvertes, indiquent qu'elles sont un ouvrage des anciens Egyptiens ; ils indiquent encore qu'elles ne sont pas entières ; elles ont été cassées, et cependant les deux pyramides sont chacune d'un seul morceau de granite rouge. On travaille à leur enlèvement pour les transporter en France.

Le nombre infini de puits et de citernes qui se trouvent dans cette ville, laisse entrevoir ce qu'elle a pu être. En général les reservoirs d'eau sont encore très-beaux, ils n'ont besoin que d'être curés. Quelques uns de ces puits ont 40 et 50 pieds de profondeur, et 24 à 30 de diamètre, d'une belle construction : d'autres de la même profondeur offrent des souterrains, soutenus par deux ou trois rangs de colonnes posées les unes au dessus des autres.

Le port d'Alexandrie est divisé en deux baies très-belles, peu profondes, et séparées par une digue ou chaussée de 5 à 600 toises de long, et qui se rend jusqu'au Phare, c'est-à-dire, à l'emplacement de cet ancien et superbe édifice, et d'où l'on decouvroit les bâtimens à trente ou quarante lieues en mer. Ce Phare n'est plus

aujourd'hui qu'un mauvais fort qui tombe en ruine, et au milieu duquel est un minaret. Je l'ai visité ; on y a trouvé quelques pièces de canon, de longues couleuvrines de 18 à 20 pieds, des mortiers en pierre ; le tout absolument hors de service, et ne pouvant plus résister à un coup de canon. On a encore trouvé dans ce fort des armes, dont la forme ne laisse pas douter qu'elles ne proviennent des Français dans la malheureuse expédition de Saint Louis en Egypte.

Je ne m'étendrai pas davantage sur cette ville. J'ajouterai seulement que les habitants quoique vaincus, ne sont pas soumis, et ne le seront pas même de longtemps. Nous devons ici user de politique, car nous ne sommes pas assez forts pour agir autrement. Au reste on respecte leur religion, leurs mœurs, et surtout leurs femmes. Il est vrai que cette race féminine ici n'est pas très-engageante ; en général ce sont de vilains peuples.

J'eus ordre, comme je vous l'ai dit, de me rendre à Rosette, distante de 12 lieues d'Alexandrie. Je m'embarquai avec le Général Menou, qui commande provisoirement dans cette province. J'entrai dans le Nil le 24 Messidor. Nous passâmes avec quelque peine la barre du Nil, l'effroi des navigateurs, et nous remontâmes ce fleuve jusqu'à Rosette, qui est située sur la rive gauche, à deux lieues de l'embouchure du Nil. C'est seulement de cette seconde et principale branche du Nil que l'Egypte prend un aspect de verdure, que le contraste des sables et des déserts voisins embellissent encore. Le long des rives de ce fleuve on voit des bois de datiers ou palmiers, des sycamores, de nombreux bestiaux, de nombreuses habitations. Les jardins sont remplis d'orangers, citronniers, et bananiers.

Rosette, comme toutes les autres villes du Levant, ha-

bitées par les Turcs, est mal bâtie, sale ; les rues sont des allées étroites fermées par en haut. Les maisons sont des répairs de puces, de mouchérons. Jusqu'à cette heure, nous n'avons, pour ainsi dire, été occupés que du soin de notre subsistance, et du soin de dormir. Les moustiques sont un véritable fléau ; leur piquure, la chaleur du soleil toujours brûlant, d'un ciel toujours serein, embrasé, nous font passer des nuits cruelles. J'ai beau me plonger dans les eaux bourbeuses du Nil, je ne peux éteindre la chaleur de mon sang bouillonnant.

Mes fonctions à Rosette sont de lever le cours du Nil, d'observer ce fleuve, ses crues, ses époques, son inondation, son embouchure, sa barre ou banc de sable, si dangereux pour la navigation ; enfin de présenter un mémoire sur la ville de Rosette considérée comme port. Je suis logé sur le bord du Nil : de mon lit je vois le Delta ; nous n'avons pas encore mis le pied dans cette province qui ne nous inquiète pas, parcequ'elle sera bientôt soumise.

Nous avons appris hier, 9 Thermidor, (d'heureuse mémoire) que le Caire étoit au pouvoir des Français, qui y sont entrés en vainqueurs le 4 de ce mois. Cette conquête a été l'affaire d'une bataille de quelques heures. Les Mamelouks au nombre de quatre mille cavaliers sortis du Caire, se sont disposés à défendre l'entrée de leur ville. Les Français, quoique harrassés et exténués de fatigues, ont emporté à la bayonnette une redoute assez bien fortifiée et défendue par trente pièces de canon. Ce fut l'affaire d'un instant. L'affaire devenue générale ; mille Mamelouks sont taillés en pièces, mitraillés, deux à trois cents sont noyés dans le Nil ; le reste épouvanté prit la fuite ; on entra dans la ville le feu embrâsoit encore le palais ou maison des trois Beys qui s'étoient

emparés du pouvoir en méconnoissant l'empire du Grand Sultan. Une Sultane a dérobé à la mort tous les Français et Européens qui résidoient au Caire, en les faisant retirer dans ses cours. Sans cette mesure ils eussent été infailliblement massacrés.

La prise du Caire va ranger dans notre parti tous les Turcs, qui n'osoient se décider par la crainte d'une défaite. Malgré cela nous avons journellement à Alexandrie comme à Rosette des alertes. Avant-hier j'ai accompagné le Général Menou dans une sortie qu'il fit. Cette alerte étoit fausse, mais il n'en est pas de même toutes les fois que les Arabes nous forcent de sortir.

Quand nous sommes arrivés à Alexandrie, la peste regnoit encore dans quelques maisons Turques ; elle y regnoit aussi à Rosette. Mais dès le mois de Juin et pendant les cinq ou six mois suivans, cette maladie n'est pas dangereuse, elle ne se gagne plus. Le Nil est dans sa crue, ses eaux sont très-bourbeuses, cela ne m'empêche pas de m'y baigner tous les jours.

J'espère aller au Caire sous quinzaine, et aller plus haut voir les fameuses Pyramides et les autres monumens de l'antiquité. J'espère et desire vivement de revenir en France par l'Italie : fasse le ciel seconder mes vœux, mes projets, revoir ma patrie, à laquelle un Français ne peut renoncer !

Je crois que ma lettre partira pour France par la première occasion ; celle qui doit porter la nouvelle des succès de notre armée. En vous écrivant, mon cher Ramey, je vous prie de donner de mes nouvelles aux amis de Calais. Vous voyez que je vous ai écrit longuement. Cette lettre est la quatrième. Je n'écrirai donc pas à Calais, je vous charge de me rappeler au souvenir de Madame Wieyne, la future, de votre aimable famille,

de Madame Grandcourt, Dufaux jeune et vieux, Madame Becquet, Mons. et Madame Durier, de l'ami Moreaux, Dufour, Eden, et autres. A Paris à Madame Récicour, Mons. et Madame Bénard.

Salut et amitié pour la vie,

GIREZ.

Note. Deux voyageurs en Egypte ont écrit sur cet ancien pays ; l'un est Savary ; sa relation que j'ai lu dans sa traversée, n'est pas très-exacte ; son ouvrage est en trois volumes. Le second est Volney que j'avois déjà lu, et que je relis en ce moment. Son ouvrage est très-bien fait, ses relations sont exactes ; je vous engage à le lire (en deux volumes).

Nous avons appris à Alexandrie la fameuse descente des Anglais sur les côtes de France près d'Ostende. Ils sont descendus avec 10,000 hommes, ils ont eu 4500 faits prisonniers, 1500 de tués, et le reste a pris la fuite ; il n'y a pas de mal à cela. Il faut que ces insulaires soient bien battus ; ils devraient rester dans leur demeure de bois. Ces animaux descendent, je crois, en ligne directe de Moïse, qui leur a enseigné à voguer sur l'eau. Ils devraient s'y tenir renfermés, car en sortant ils font voir qu'ils ne sont que des bêtes.

Malgré la Proclamation du Général en Chef aux Turcs sur notre expédition, le peuple Egyptien, Turcs, Mahométans, tous demandent où est le Pacha de Selim, au nom duquel nous agissons. La prise du Caire les a frappés de terreur et d'étonnement ; ils paroissent en être très-contents ; ils disent en leur langue : " Dieu s'est servi des armes des Français pour chasser les Mamelouks, les Beys, les oppresseurs de l'Egypte."

TRANSLATION.

Rosetta, (10 Thermidor), July 28.

My dear Ramcy,

I HAVE not written to you since we left Malta. You received, I hope, the letter I wrote you on board my ship, while she lay there—not to repeat what I have already said, I take up my narrative from that day.

The ships of war and transports set sail on the 19th of June, directing their course to the eastward, and on the 24th we discovered the high lands of Candia, covered with snow; the 29th, the look-out frigate made the land (this was the coast of Barbary), and the same day the whole fleet had a sight of it; it was exceedingly low and sandy, resembling in every respect the ground between Calais and Gravelines.

At length, at day-break on the 1st of July, we discovered the city of Alexandria. The same day, about four in the afternoon, orders were given for landing the troops, which was effected, in spite of a very heavy sea, in a convenient bay about two leagues to the east* of the

* Citizen Girez is not much more accurate in his geography than the rest of his countrymen: the bay in which they landed is not to the east, but to the west of Alexandria; and, for the honour of his historical precision, be it farther remarked, that the building of which he speaks, is not called the Tower of the Mameloucs, but of the Arabs, which is a very different thing;—but to notice every blunder of this nature, as we observed on a for-

city. On this part of the coast is a building, called the Tower of the Mameloucs. The next day, six or seven thousand men, unprovided with artillery, laid siege to this ancient and celebrated city. The Turks discharged a few pieces of cannon. The French were already close to the ruined walls which surround it, where they received a volley of musquetry and stones from the Arabs, and then mounted to the assault by two old breaches!

The Generals Kleber and Menou were wounded, but the French entered the city victoriously by noon. In the evening the Turks and Arabs fired on our troops from their houses, and killed some of them;—this **REVOLT** was punished, but in the gentlest manner!* This first conquest cost us between two and three hundred men. The loss of the enemy was equal to our own.

I went on shore on the 3d, though I had not yet received orders to disembark, and walked five or six miles to the city; which I had the good fortune to enter, in company with my elder brother, without any accident whatever. On our way we saw the dead bodies of several of our countrymen. At Alexandria the whole army had the greatest difficulty to find provisions or quarters. On the 5th, a deputation of twelve or fifteen Bedouins came to offer us their alliance in the name of their tribe. The Commander in Chief made them a few presents, and, at parting, gave each of them ten louis. They pro-

mer occasion, is as far from our intentions, as our power, in the limits we have prescribed ourselves.

* That is to say, by an indiscriminate massacre of men, women, and children, for the space of four hours! Girez seems to have pretty nearly the same notions of humanity as the Rev. Mr. W. who, like him, perhaps, would call this resistance to the fury of the great nation, a **REVOLT**.

mised to return the next day, but they never appeared afterwards. It is probable they only came as spies.*

The 3d, 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th, the divisions of Desaix, Kleber, &c. filed off towards Demanhour, a pretty considerable town, on the Canal of Alexandria, from which place it is about 10 leagues distant. The Commander in Chief, with General Cafarelli, and the rest of the staff, followed the army across the Desert.

All the corps of the arts and sciences, which were ordered to disembark on the 6th, are to continue at Alexandria till farther orders. Our brigade of civil engineers is still there, with the exception of three (of whom I am one) who seem to have been detached from it for the purpose of following the army. Till the 10th,† however, when I received final orders to proceed to Rosetta, I amused myself with exploring the city of Alexandria. We endeavoured to trace out its ancient splen-

* We have here a complete explanation of a circumstance which otherwise we could only know from the event. The reader cannot have forgot the exultation with which not only the letters in the First Part of this publication, but even the official dispatches of Bonaparte and Berthier, speak of this alliance with the Arabs, and of the mighty advantages to be derived from it.

Here then behold the venerable negotiators (vagabonds and beggars) who were entrusted with the interests of the Arabs! and contemplate the important drama to which the eyes of all Europe were anxiously directed, begun and ended in one miserable scene!

† In the original, 10 Messidor (the 28th of June), a most ridiculous blunder! There is no way of correcting it, but by supposing Girez to have confounded the old and new calenders in his mind (no uncommon circumstance); and in that case, if we read 10th of July in the good old way, instead of 10 Messidor, we shall probably be not far from the truth.

dour amidst mountains of ruins, which seem to be merely those of the Alexandria rebuilt by the Arabs! We found scattered about fragments of columns of various species of marble.

I went also to see the column of Severus, improperly attributed to Pompey;* it stands without the circuit of the present city; it is of red granite, 104 feet in height; its shaft is 56 feet in length, and 9 in diameter, and is formed of a single block. In returning towards the

* This is the hundreth time at least, that we have met with this expression, which after all is taken from Savary, "the Column of Severus, improperly attributed to Pompey." Such a deplorable display of minute science amidst the grossest ignorance, is not calculated to raise our ideas of the progress of the disciples of the new school, to a very extraordinary pitch. What real knowledge is still amongst the French, and we are convinced there is still a great deal, was acquired under a very different discipline. With the scholars of the old regime will expire all that is scientific and profound in France.

Literature has not received so fatal a blow since the days of the National Convention, or (in the hypocritical cant of the present time) of Robespierre, as by the horrid deportations of the 13 Fructidor. In the prison-ships of that period were confounded men of the most varied accomplishments; men who had long delighted and instructed Europe; and whose place the present generation of crude, and shallow, and clamorous *cognoscenti*, will ineffectually labour to supply. In spite of the NATIONAL INSTITUTE, in spite of the innumerable memoirs, essays, odes, that issue daily from its countless mouths, and astonish the weak, and overwhelm the wise, we are persuaded that the French are gradually relapsing into barbarism; nor will their decline, we apprehend, be much retarded even by the EGYPTIAN INSTITUTE, though Bonaparte is ostentatiously inrolled amongst its members; and Tallien has descended from the dignity of a Senator, and almost a Director, to become a corrector of the press to Citizen Marc Aurèle!

city, you also see two pyramids, called Cleopatra's Needles!!! they are both situate on the coast, are between fifty and sixty feet in height, and about seven feet square. One of them is still standing, the other lying on the ground. The hieroglyphics, with which the four sides are covered, indicate that they are the works of the ancient Egyptians; they indicate also that they are not entire. Both of these pyramids have evidently been broken; and yet each of them was formed of a single piece of red granite. We are endeavouring to raise them, for the purpose of conveying them to France!

The infinite number of wells and cisterns to be found in this city, give us a pretty accurate idea of what it must have been. Generally speaking, these reservoirs are still very fine, and only require to be cleaned out; some of them are from forty to fifty feet in depth, and near thirty in diameter: others form subterraneous vaults, which are supported by two or three rows of columns, one over another.

The port of Alexandria is divided into two very beautiful bays (with no great depth of water), separated by a dike or causeway near 1200 yards in length, and reaching to the Pharos, that is to say, to the site of that ancient and magnificent edifice, from whence vessels were discovered at the distance of thirty or forty leagues. This Pharos is nothing at present but a paltry fort, which is tumbling into ruin. In the centre of it is a minaret, which I examined. There are a few pieces of cannon, some long culverines of 18 or 20 feet, and some stone mortars: the whole absolutely unserviceable, and incapable of resisting a single shot. In this fort were found a few arms, the shape and make of which clearly

prove that they once belonged to the French who perished in the unfortunate expedition of St. Louis.*

I shall say nothing more of this city ; except that its inhabitants, though vanquished, are not in a state of complete subjection, nor likely to be so for a long time to come. We must use policy here, for we are not yet strong enough to do otherwise.† For the rest, we respect their religion, their manners, and above all, their women ; these last, it must be confessed, are not mightily engaging. In short, they are a hideous, and abominable race.

* Though Girez appears to have a very pretty notion of antiquity, which he manifests among other things, by mistaking an obelisk for a pyramid, and the ruins of a Greek wall for an indubitable specimen of Arabic masonry, we are still somewhat disinclined to give him credit for the discovery of which he speaks in this place.

To do him justice, however, he is not singular in his conjectures ; a letter (a copy) has found its way to France, in which the same circumstance is mentioned. This has been printed in the papers of the Directory, and, according to the established custom, reprinted here, cum notis variorum. To judge from the comments of the Jacobins on this famous discovery, it would seem as if they thought the whole army of France might be equipped from it. "A room," say they, "has been found in the Castle, *full* of arms, supposed," &c.—"this will prove a most valuable acquisition." Would any one suppose, after this, that the treasure, of which their wishes lead them to speak with such apparent satisfaction, consisted in nothing more than half-a-dozen rusty halberds, and three or four unserviceable matchlocks, dragged out of a dust-hole !

† We hope the reader has not overlooked Girez' admirable reason for "using policy." It is the true secret of their forbearance in every country which the French have over-run, and is worth whole folios on the subject. Bonaparte seems to have

I had orders, as I observed above, to proceed to Rosetta, distant about 12 leagues from Alexandria; I embarked with General Menou, who commands this province provisionally. We entered the Nile on the 12th of July, passing the bar, the terror of navigators, with some difficulty, and ascended the river till we came to Rosetta, which is situated on its left bank, about two leagues from its mouth. It is only at this second,* and principal branch of the Nile, that Egypt puts on a little appearance of verdure, which is rendered still more agreeable by the strong contrast of the neighbouring Deserts. Along the banks of the river we saw many dates or palm trees, and sycamores, numbers of cattle, and houses. The gardens are full of orange, citron, and banana trees.

Rosetta, like all the other towns of the Levant, inhabited by the Turks, is wretchedly built, and full of filth: the streets are narrow alleys, of which the houses meet at the top; the houses themselves are the receptacles of fleas, gnats, &c. &c. To this moment, as I may

committed a fatal mistake on this head at Cairo. He took his measures better in Italy, where he seldom laid aside his policy (which is a very expressive word in the vocabulary of a French general), and began the work of pillage and murder till, in the simple but expressive words of Girez, he was "strong enough to do it."

* We do not quite comprehend this topographical view of Egypt. It seems as if Girez supposed Alexandria to be situated upon a branch of the Nile, a circumstance which, if we consider that he remained there several days, exploring, as he says, the circumjacent country, promises admirably for the fidelity of the hydraulic charts which we find he has been so judiciously selected to compose.

PART II.

F

say, we have done nothing, thought of nothing, but how to procure a little food and sleep. The musquitoes are a real plague ; their sting, the heat of an ever-burning sun, and of a serene sky always on fire, make us pass most dreadful nights. In vain do I plunge myself into the muddy waters of the Nile ; I cannot extinguish the heat of my boiling blood.

My employment at Rosetta is to take a plan of the course of the Nile, to observe the river as to its rise, its epochs, its inundations, its mouth, its bar, or bank of sand, so dangerous to navigation, and, in short, to present a memoir on the town of Rosetta, considered as a port. I am lodged on the bank of the river, and can see the Delta from my bed. We have not yet put foot in this province ; but that gives us no uneasiness, as we know it will soon be in our power.

We learned yesterday (the 27th July, of happy memory), that Cairo was in the possession of the French, who entered it as conquerors, on the 22d. This capture was the consequence of an action of some hours : the Mameloucs, to the number of four thousand horse, came out of Cairo, and shewed a disposition to defend the approaches of the city. The French, though harassed and worn down with fatigue, carried with fixed bayonets a redoubt tolerably well fortified, and defended by thirty pieces of cannon. This was the affair of a single instant ; the action then became general ; a thousand Mameloucs were cut to pieces, or destroyed by grape-shot, and two or three hundred drowned in the Nile ; the remainder took fright, and fled. Our troops then entered the city ; the fire was still preying on the palace of the three Beys, who had seized the sovereign power, and rendered themselves independant of the

Grand Seignior. A Sultana preserved all the Europeans who resided at Cairo, by opening her palace to them : without this act of humanity, they would have all been infallibly massacred.

The capture of Cairo will bring over all the Turks, who did not dare to join us before, lest we should be defeated ! In spite of this, however, we have daily alarms both here and at Alexandria. The day before yesterday, I accompanied General Menou in a sortie which he made ; it proved to be a false alarm ; this, however, is not always the case, when the Arabs force us to march out.

When we arrived at Alexandria the plague was still there ; it was also at Rosetta : but from the beginning of June, and the five or six months which follow it, this malady is neither dangerous nor infectious. The Nile is on its increase ; its waters are extremely muddy ; this, however, does not prevent me from bathing in it every day.

I hope to go to Cairo in a fortnight, and from thence still higher up the river, to see the famous pyramids, and the other monuments of antiquity. I hope, and desire most ardently, to return to France by the way of Italy. May heaven prosper my wishes, my projects, to see once more my dear native land ;—wishes which a Frenchman can never renounce !

I fancy that my letter will be sent to France by the first packet, which is to carry the news of our success. While I am writing to you, my dear Ramey, I beg you to let my friends at Calais know I am well. You see that I have written pretty much at length ; this letter is the fourth. I shall not write then to Calais, but will trouble you to remember me to Madame Wicéne, your

intended ; to your worthy family ; to Madame Grandcourt, Dufaux, and his son ; Madame Becquet ; Monsieur and Madame Durier ; my friends Moreaux, Dufour, Eden, &c. ; and at Paris, to Madame Récicour, and Monsieur and Madame Bénard.

Health and friendship during life,

GIREZ.

Two travellers in Egypt have written on this ancient country. Savary, whose account I read on my passage, and who is far from correct (his work is in three volumes) ; and Volney, whom I had read, and whom I am now reading again ! His work is well written, and his descriptions are very accurate.* I could wish you to read it (it is in two volumes).

We heard at Alexandria of the famous descent of the English on the French coast near Ostend. They landed with 10,000 men, of whom 4,500 were made prisoners, 1,500 killed, and the rest put to flight !† This is not

* It should not be forgotten, that our engineer, who decides so peremptorily on the accuracy of Volney's account of Egypt, has not yet, as appears from his own letter, set foot beyond the suburbs of Rosetta, the first town, as he truly says, on entering the Nile. This is just as if an Egyptian should decide on the descriptions of France by taking a cursory view of the sands of Calais ; and is not much unlike what was done by a half-witted philosopher called De Pages, who went round the world, raving after " virtuous savages ;" and who pretended to characterize the English from an accidental stay of three hours at Deal !

† This curious paragraph, in which Girez, at the distance of a thousand leagues, puts his correspondent in mind of what happened under his own nose, bears a strong resemblance to a

amiss; these Islanders ought to be well beaten: they should have staid in their wooden houses. These animals descend, I think, in a right line from Moses, who taught them to use the sea.* They ought to confine themselves constantly to it, for the instant they get on land, they prove themselves to be a very stupid race.

In spite of the Proclamation of the Commander in Chief, to the Turks on our expedition, the Egyptians, the Turks, the Mahometans, all ask us where the Bashaw of Selim is, in whose name we profess to act? The taking of Cairo has filled them with terror and astonishment; they seem to be much pleased with it, and say, in their own language, "God has availed himself of the arms of the French, to drive away the Mameloucs, the Beys, the oppressors of Egypt."

passage we once recollect to have seen in a letter from a back-settler in North America to his friend in London. "Give my love to Abraham Turner, and tell him I have no news to send, only I hear the parliament is dissolved."

We make no remarks on the authenticity of the intelligence which is conveyed to this deluded army.

* Girez, as Sir Hugh Evans says, has "prayed his pipe ill." If he will look into the history of Moses at his return, (for we fear he will have no opportunity of doing it while he stays in Egypt), he will find that Moses has little pretensions to the reputation of a teacher in navigation. His "descendants in a right line" too, know almost as little of the matter as himself; but so it ever is; ignorance and profaneness go hand in hand, and the sneer of the scoffer is produced by the misconceptions of the fool,

No. VII.

Alexandrie, le 12 Thermidor, an 6.

A la Citoyenne Blanc, Rue Helvetius, No. 667, à Paris.

DOUCE amie, je t'ai écrit au commencement du mois. Je m'impatissois de ne pas recevoir de tes précieuses lettres ; aujourd'hui j'en connois la cause. Les Anglais ont intercepté nos premiers avisos partis de Toulon, ils apportent les premières lettres de tout ce qui m'intéresse sur la terre : oui, ton Julien François n'avoit qu'une seule jouissance à désirer, celle de tes précieuses lettres, et j'en suis privé. Ce sacrifice bien dur pour mon cœur, je l'ajoute avec plaisir à tous ceux que j'ai faits pour assurer une existence heureuse à ma Julie, et à mes enfans.

Le 4 de ce mois, Bonaparte a pris le Caire ; je m'y attendois, et il falloit cette nouvelle pour supporter l'état de pénurie où la communication du Nil, interceptée par l'ennemi, nous jettait. Nous allons être approvisionnés en ris, grains, et la possession du Caire va nous rendre l'abondance.

Il s'agira de connoître comment le Grand Seigneur va trouver tout ceci. Les Anglois tiendront-ils la mer cet hiver ? ce sont des choses à éclaircir pour notre existence loin de la France ; non que nous ayons besoin des objets de première nécessité en Egypte ; mais parce que les communications de mer sont précieuses dans

la situation où nous serons dans quelques mois après le retirement des eaux du Nil. Enfin, quand nous en serons là, nous verrons ce que les nouvelles de France nous apprendront.

Tu sauras que j'ai lu les papiers publics jusqu'au 5 Messidor. Louis Bonaparte, qui est resté malade ici, m'a toujours procuré les Gazettes qui sont arrivées par les avisos. Je vois avec peine que dans ce moment favorable à une descente en Irlande, on ne s'en occupe pas en France ; mais il y a encore trois mois propres à cette tentative, on s'y décidera peut-être.

J'ai trop à écrire ici pour organiser les administrations du Lazareth, et des postes de la côte, pour que je puisse faire un journal historique de ce qui se passe ici à tous ceux que je voudrais tenir instruits. Voici mon projet à ce sujet : je ferai cet historique assez succinctement, je te l'adresserai, douce amie, et tu le communiqueras à Teinier, gazettier. Ceci pourtant sans obligation, mais quand tu le jugeras convenable : quelquefois même il est possible que je ne puisse te donner qu'un aperçu rapide dans une lettre, et tu le rapporteras de vive voix à nos amis, car les lettres de Julien François à sa douce amie ne doivent être lues que par celle qui les inspire.

O ma Julie, te voilà encore une fois au moment de renouveler mon titre de père, et je suis loin de toi ! Pardonne mille fois, pardonne l'éloignement de ton amant, qui ne pourra soulager tes souffrances dans un moment si pénible et si doux pour toi. Je connois le cœur de ma Julie ; si elle souffre, elle éprouve toujours un nouveau bonheur à donner à son époux de nouveaux fruits de son amour. Ah ! si du moins cette fois tes vœux sont remplis, ma chère et gentille Camille te

consolera de l'absence de son père. Si c'est un nouveau garçon, que le nom de Tell puisse nous rappeler la mémoire de celui que nous avons perdu.

Il me tarde de savoir ta délivrance, mais il me tarde aussi de connoître si tu me donnes une Camille. Baise-la mille fois pour son père. Mais c'en est assez, mes yeux, baignés de larmes sensibles et douces, me forcent de remettre la fin de cette lettre à un autre moment.

Ce 14 à midi—Il y a dans ce moment quatorze vaisseaux Anglois en vue. On compte douze vaisseaux de ligne et deux frégates ; ces deux-ci sont venues à la portée du canon d'Alexandrie, mais elles ont viré de bord quand elles ont vu que notre escadre n'y étoit pas, et cette escadre ennemie force de voiles pour se rendre au Bekier, port à trois lieues de cette ville, où est mouillée l'escadre Française, bien embossée, dit-on, et en état de bien recevoir les Anglois.

A 5 heures, nous voyons avec des porte-vues distinctement l'escadre Anglaise, qui va mouiller au Bekier pour attaquer notre escadre. Il est 5 heures et demie ; la canonnade commence ; et vers les 6 heures elle redouble. Il est 7 heures ; la nuit se fait, et le feu redouble encore. A 7 heures et demie ; nous voyons l'horizon enflamé, ce qui annonce l'incendie de quelque vaisseau. A 8 heures et quart, la canonnade se ralentit ; enfin à 9 heures, nous voyons le feu de l'incendie augmenter. A 9 heures et quelques minutes, le vaisseau a sauté. Quelle belle horreur, un ciel couvert de feu !

La canonnade se ralentit à 9 heures et demie, dans ce moment on fait partir mille matelots et canonniers pour aller au Bekier par terre. Il est 10 heures, le feu ralenti, et la lune se leve à la droite du lieu où vient de

s'élever l'explosion du vaisseau incendié. Les Français sont ici tous en armes, et nous sommes tous dans la maison du Général Kleber, sur nos terrasses. On fait partir des détachements d'heure en heure, pour aller au Bekier renforcer les équipages de notre escadre.

A minuit, le feu qui n'a jamais cessé recommence et redouble, il est clair que l'escadre Anglaise veut ou couler la nôtre ou se faire couler. Nous brûlons de savoir des nouvelles, mais jusqu'à neuf heures du matin nous serons dans l'incertitude.

A 3 heures du matin le feu redouble encore, il a duré une heure. A 6 heures le feu redouble encore. Il part encore d'ici des matelots et des canonniers: il est 8 heures, le feu n'a pas diminué.

A midi il arrive un exprès de Bekier. O fatale nuit, O fatale journée pour l'honneur Français! L'escadre est détruite. Sur treize vaisseaux et quatre frégates, deux frégates et deux vaisseaux Français ont mis à la voile et se sont sauvés. Je pense qu'ils auront été en France vous porter cette triste nouvelle.

Mais ici je m'arrête, ma chère Julie, pour calmer tes craintes. Les Anglais que les sottises de notre marine élèvent plus encore que leurs moyens, n'ont rien d'heureux à tenter contre nous. Les ports d'Alexandrie flanqués de batteries et défendus par la nature, n'offroient que la honte et la mort à cet ennemi qui, je te le repète, n'est formidable que de l'ignorance de notre marine. Imagine-toi que notre escadre étoit disposée pour être battue par les Anglais trois ou quatre contre un; une pareille bêtise ne pouvoit échapper à un ennemi qui fait de la mer son élément.

Une chose qui te paroitra étonnante, c'est qu'au moment où je t'écris, trois jours après cette fatale affaire,

nous ignorons encore l'état réel des vaisseaux Anglais; qui dit qu'ils en ont 4 à 5 de perdus, ou totalement hors d'état de mettre en mer, qui dit qu'ils n'ont que 5 à 6 vaisseaux en état de faire route, mais je crains bien qu'ils ne retournent plus qu'ils ne sont venus, c'est à dire, qu'ils avoient 14 vaisseaux auxquels ils joindront ceux qu'ils nous ont pris. Ce bruit-même semble s'accréditer.

Telle est cette malheureuse affaire: mais laissons encore ces détails fâcheux, et rassure-toi sur le sort de notre colonie. Nous sommes ici bien retranchés par des batteries, et nous ne sommes mal que de ne pas recevoir des nouvelles de France. O ma Julie, qu'il me seroit doux tous les 15 jours au moins d'avoir une de tes lettres!

On dit que Bonaparte laisse six mille hommes au Caire, qu'il y a rétabli l'ancien gouvernement déposé par les Mamelouks. Tu sens que c'est le moyen de se faire un ami puissant dans le pays.

Nous attendons chaque jour à le voir paroître ici, car après l'affaire de la flotte, il faut bien que Bonaparte soit quelque tems ici. Déjà bien des gens pensent au voyage dans l'Inde, ceci me paroît éloigné encore, cependant tu sauras ce qui en sera par mes premières lettres.

La frégate qui alloit en France avec les dépêches de Marmont pour appeller son épouse ici, a été, dit-on, prise; dans ce cas le départ de cette charmante femme sera retardé, et en effet je vois de la folie d'appeller sa femme avant que les circonstances soient assises ici d'une manière invariable. Mais il appartient à Marmont de hâter le voyage de son épouse; quant à celui de ma Julie, aussitôt qu'il sera possible de le déter-

miner, sois tranquille, ton époux t'appellera avec l'empressement de l'amant le plus passionné.

Je ferme cette lettre, car on m'assure qu'un capitaine part pour France. Puisse cette lettre te parvenir, douce amie, avec les baisers que je mets sur ces lignes pour toi et mes enfans.

Amour pour la vie,

B. JULIEN FRANÇOIS.

TRANSLATION.

Alexandria (12 Thermidor), July 30th.

*To the female Citizen BLANC, Rue Helvetius, No. 667,
at Paris.*

My dear Life,

I WROTE to you about the middle of this month. I was exceedingly uneasy at not hearing from you; but now I know the reason: the English have taken the first advice boats that were dispatched from Toulon; they were bringing me the first letters respecting all that is interesting to me on earth. Yes, your Julien François had but one concern, that for your dear letters; and those he is deprived of. 'Tis a sacrifice that has cost me dear,—but I add it with pleasure to all those which I have previously made to procure a decent competence for my Julia, and my children.

Bonaparte took Cairo on the 22d of this month: I

expected it; and, indeed, nothing less than this event was necessary to enable us to support the state of privation, to which the interception of all communication by the Nile, had reduced us. We shall now be supplied with rice and corn; for the possession of Cairo will procure us provisions in abundance.

The question now is, what the Grand Seignior will think of all this. And the English—will they keep the sea this winter? These are doubts, the solving of which is of the utmost importance to our existence in this remote country. Not that we are in want of articles of the first necessity in Egypt; but that a free communication by sea is of the highest consequence, in the situation in which we shall find ourselves a few months hence, when the Nile is low—but enough, when that period arrives, we shall see what the news from France will say.

I must inform you that I have read the public papers up to the 23d of June. Louis Bonaparte, who is detained here by sickness, has constantly procured me the Gazettes brought by our packets. I see with pain that in this favourable moment for a descent on Ireland,* nothing is thought of it in France; but there

* This expression strongly marks the restless nature of these people. Julien allows that the situation of the French army is extremely critical; nay, that its existence depends on contingencies,—yet, with want of every kind staring him in the face, with a prospect of a new enemy in the Grand Seignior, and with hatred and hostility kindling around him, his thoughts still turn on INVASIONS; and, in the very jaws of destruction himself, he is as anxious as ever to extend its ravages to a distant nation!

The calumniators of the Councils, as well as of the arms of their country, will not do amiss in taking notice of this and other

are still three months proper for the attempt, and it may yet, perhaps, be made.

I am too much engaged in organizing the administration of the Lazaretto, and of the positions along the coast, to be able to compose an historical journal of what passes here for each of those whom I could wish to inform,—but I will tell you what has struck me on the subject. I will draw up this journal as succinctly as possible; I will then direct it, my love, to you; and you shall send it to the newspaper-writer Teinier.—This, however, I insist upon your doing, only when you yourself judge it not improper. It may sometimes happen that I shall be able to send you only a rapid sketch in a letter,—this you may report *viva voce* to our friends, for the letters of Julien François to his love ought only to be seen by her who inspires them.

O my Julia! you are now once more on the point of renewing my title of father, and I am far from you,—pardon a thousand times, O pardon the absence of your fond friend, who cannot sooth your agonies in a moment so painful yet dear to you.—I know the heart of my Julia: if she suffers, yet she experiences a new sensation of happiness in giving her husband a new

passages of a similar nature to be found in these letters. They will see in them the secret opinion of the French themselves (which, indeed, was fully justified by the event) on the ill conduct of their own affairs; and they will be convinced (though we do not expect them to acknowledge it) that all wisdom and all vigour are not the exclusive possession of an enemy, who forwards an expedition only in the intervals of private feuds, and sends it at last slowly prepared, and ill concerted, to open destruction.

pledge of her love. Ah! if your prayers are this time heard, a sweet little Camilla will console you for the absence of her father. If it shall prove a boy, may the name of Tell recall the memory of that which we lost! I long to hear of your safe delivery, but I also long to hear if you have given me a Camilla. Kiss her a thousand times for her father.—But no more: my eyes suffused with tears of tenderness and delight, compel me to postpone the completion of my letter.

Noon, August 1st. Fourteen English vessels are this moment hove in sight. We make them to be twelve sail of the line, and two frigates: these last came within cannon shot of Alexandria, but on ascertaining that our fleet was not in the harbour, they stood off again immediately; and, with the rest of the ships, are now making with a press of sail for Aboukir,—a port about three leagues from this city, where the French fleet is at anchor, strongly moored, as they say here, and in a situation to give the English a good reception.

Five o'clock. We discern the English fleet very clearly with our glasses. It seems about to drop anchor at Aboukir, for the purpose of attacking us. Half after five—The cannonade begins, and about six, increases. Seven—It is now night, and the fire still increases. Half after seven—The whole horizon seems in flames; this shews that a ship is on fire. Eight—The cannonade slackens a little. Nine—The flames augment. A little after nine—The vessel blows up! how tremendously beautiful! a sky covered with fire!

Half after nine—The cannonade slackens, and a thousand sailors are dispatched to Aboukir by land.

Ten—The moon rises on the right of the spot where the explosion took place. The French here are all under arms. We are assembled at the house of General Kleber, and on the terraces. Fresh detachments are hourly dispatched to Aboukir, to reinforce the crews of our ships.

Midnight—The firing, which has never totally ceased, recommences with redoubled fury. It is evident that the English are determined to sink or be sunk.* We burn to know what has happened, but we shall be kept in suspense till nine in the morning.

Three o'clock—The firing increases in violence. It has now continued an hour. Six—The firing still increases, more sailors and cannoneers are sending off. It is now eight, and the firing is as brisk as ever.

Noon—An express is arrived from Aboukir. O fatal night! O fatal action for the honour of France! the fleet is destroyed. Of thirteen sail of the line, and four frigates, two only of each have made their escape. They are sailed for France, to carry you, I imagine, this dreadful news.

Here, however, I break off, my dear Julia, for the purpose of calming your apprehensions. The English, whom the stupidity of our marine contributes to raise more than their own exertions, have no prospect of

* We know not how Julien will settle this matter with the Morning Chronicle.—“What can the English do?” says that patriotic paper,—“they are so disgraced that it will require no efforts to disarm them: any puny whipster may get their swords”!!!

success in attempting any thing against us. The ports of Alexandria, flanked by batteries, and defended by nature, offer nothing but disgrace and death to an enemy who, I must again repeat it, are only formidable through the ignorance of our marine! imagine our fleet in a position which allowed the English to fight them three or four to one! a piece of stupidity like this* could not escape an enemy who has made the sea his peculiar element.

It will appear very surprising to you, that at the moment of writing this (three days after the fatal affair) we should still be totally ignorant of the real state of the English vessels. Some say that four or five of them are lost; or, at least, incapable of keeping the sea; while others insist that they have but five or six in all, in a state of service,—but I am very apprehensive that they will return with more than they came,—and, I am sorry to observe, that this idea is gaining ground.

Such is this unfortunate event: but let us have done with these melancholy details; and do you still console yourself with respect to the fate of our colony. We are here well intrenched, and have little to complain

* Observe that this philippic on the stupidity of his vanquished countrymen comes from the man who had said just before,—“Our fleet is at anchor strongly moored, and, as they say here, in A SITUATION TO GIVE THE ENGLISH A GOOD RECEPTION.”

Such is the foresight impudently arrogated in defiance of a recorded opinion, a moment after the event had shewn that the fleet might be insulted with impunity! When shall we learn to distinguish the passionate starts of these people from sound politics, and prize their judgment at its true worth?

of but the want of intelligence from France. O Julia! how happy would it make me to receive a letter from you at least once a fortnight!

We are told that Bonaparte has left six thousand men at Cairo, where he has re-established the ancient government, which was subverted by the Mameloucs. You will allow that this is the way to procure us a powerful friend in the country.

We expect him here every day, for in consequence of our defeat, his presence for some time at Alexandria is indispensable. Many people are already speculating on the expedition to India; this appears to me, however; to be rather a distant object,—at any rate, you shall know our destination in my next.

The frigate which was going to France with dispatches from Marmont*, in which he had sent for his wife, was taken, I hear. In that case, the departure of this charming woman will be delayed; and, to say the truth, I do not see much wisdom in sending for one's wife, before things are a little better settled. This, however, is Marmont's concern.—For you, Julia, be tranquil; the first moment your coming can be determined on with propriety, your husband will summon you to him with all the ardour of the most impassioned lover.

* Marmont is a young man of family and fortune. We do not know what post he holds in the army, but as he is said to be a particular favourite of Bonaparte, it is probably an honourable and a lucrative one. His wife, of whom Julien speaks just below, is a daughter of Perregaux the banker; we believe, an only one. They were married but a short time before the expedition took place.

PART II.

G

I am obliged to fold up my letter, for they tell me that a vessel is on the point of sailing for France. May it reach you in safety, Julia, with the kisses which I have imprinted on every line for you, and my children !

Ever yours,

B. JULIEN FRANÇOIS.

No. VIII.

Alexandrie, le 13 Thermidor, an 6.

LE PERE à la Citoyenne LE PERE, rue du Fauxbourg
Honoré, No. 102, près *** à Paris.

JE crains beaucoup, ma chere maman, que ma dernière ne vous soit pas parvenue. J'aime cependant à en douter encore. Nous apprenons souvent que nos dépêches sont interceptées par les Anglais, et le courier qui vous portoit ma dernière ne sera peut-être pas arrivé à Toulon.

Je vous mandois notre bonne arrivée à Alexandrie après l'heureuse expédition de Malte, en quinze jours de traversée. Je vous donnois quelques détails sur la prise de la célèbre et bien triste Alexandrie; j'avois inséré une notice que je vous priois de communiquer à nos amis, et de faire passer à St. Germain; enfin, si tout cela ne vous est pas parvenu, les Gazettes vous en auront dédommagé.

Le Général en Chef est parti le 23^e Messidor, d'Alexandrie, et ce n'est qu'hier que nous avons reçu de ses nouvelles et de celles de l'armée. Toutes les communications par le Nil et par le Désert étant interceptées par les Arabes, nous commençons à être inquiets quand nous avons enfin reçu la nouvelle de la prise du Caire, et de tout ce qui s'en est suivi.

Gratien est à Rosette, et j'espère aller le joindre sous peu de jours, et le prendre pour nous rendre au Caire. Hyacinthe est toujours avec moi, mais il seroit possible qu'il nous quittât, si il obtient, comme nous le desirons, un emploi plus sortable dans les administrations militaires. Il est inscrit et bien recommandé.

Nous nous portons tous fort bien, et si nous n'étions pas privés du sommeil à cause des mille et une especes d'insectes qui nous dévorent, nous nous trouverions assez heureux au milieu de tous les embarras et de toutes les privations que vous pouvez facilement nous supposer. Nous sommes d'ailleurs fort occupés pour le plan d'Alexandrie, et d'autres objets qui tiennent de près à notre sureté et à notre existence. Nous n'avons toujours point d'organisation, et j'entrevois que nous formerons (à nous quinze ingénieurs) trois brigades, dont les citoyens Girard, Bodard, et moi serons les chefs. Une brigade reste attachée au port d'Alexandrie, et les deux autres seront chargées des projets relatifs au Nil, et à sa jonction à la Mer Rouge. J'aurai quelques droits comme ancien d'âge et de grade, de choisir l'opération la plus marquante.

Nous vivons fort mal, et il nous en coûte fort cher, quoique nous ayons des rations : à cela près, rien ne nous surprend, car nous savons être encore dans le désert de l'Egypte à Alexandrie, et que ce n'est qu'en nous rapprochant du Nil et passant dans le Delta que nous trouverons un pays riche de culture, et très-abondant en denrées de toutes especes !

Je vais insérer quelques détails dans une liste que vous trouverez incluse, je vous prie de la communiquer à nos amis, et de la faire passer à Saint Germain.

Mille choses de la part des trois frères à tous nos amis et connoissances.

Hyacinthe écrit a Mr. Boursier qui sans doute, vous communiquera les détails et nouvelles qu'il lui donne.

Adieu, bonne mere, nous vous embrassons de tout notre cœur.

LE PERE.

P. S. Voilà bien trois mois d'une entière séparation, ma chere maman, puisque nous n'avons pas même le plaisir de penser que nos lettres vous soient parvenues, et qu'il ne nous en est point arrivé de vous. Nous nous plaçons à croire que vous êtes plus heureuse que nous ; car indépendamment de la misère d'argent, nous avons aussi à supporter celle du peu de ressources du pays surchargé de plusieurs milliers de bouches. Mais le défaut de nourriture n'est pas encore ce qui nous manque le plus particulièrement ; nous ne reposons pas, et les insectes de toutes espèces ajoutent à nos souffrances. Notre zèle ne se refroidit cependant pas de tant de mal-aise. Nous attendons l'ordre pour aller au Caire. Gratien est depuis quinze jours distant de nous de dix lieues, et dans un pays moins ruiné.

Vous apprendrez avec plaisir les succès de nos armées dans ce pays-ci. Le Pere vous fait une longue circulaire et moi j'en adresse une à Monsieur le Boursier.

Adieu, ma chère maman, je vous embrasse de tout mon cœur.

P. S. 18 *Thermidor*.

Je me dispense de vous donner les détails promis de nos succès. La défaite de notre escadre dans l'affreux

combat du 13^e au 14^e, est un revers qui nous laisse ici comme des enfans perdus pour la mère patrie. Il n'y a que la paix qui puisse nous rattacher à elle ; mais combien cet incomparable succès va relever les prétentions des Anglais ! nous avons l'âme, navrée mais le courage et Bonaparte nous restent.

Je vous donneroïis des détails, si je ne craignois que ma lettre étant ouverte, ils ne devinssent un obstacle à sa bonne arrivée. La prudence peut vouloir cette mesure.

TRANSLATION.

Alexandria, (13 Thermidor), July 31st.

LE PERE to the female Citizen LE PERE, Rue du Faubourg Honoré, No. 102, near (illegible) at Paris.

I AM very much afraid, my dear mother, that my last never reached you ; though I cannot yet persuade myself to resign all hopes of it. We learn that our dispatches are frequently intercepted by the English, and the courier who took charge of my letter, never, perhaps, arrived at Toulon.

I gave you an account in it of our safe arrival at Alexandria, in sixteen days after our fortunate ex-

pedition against Malta. I added some details on the capture of this famous and most miserable city; and I enclosed a note which I desired you to send to St. Germain, after communicating its contents to our friends. If nothing of this has reached you, I can only hope that the Gazettes have made up for the loss.

The Commander in Chief left this place on the 11th instant, and it was only yesterday that we heard from him. All the communications by the Nile and the Desert being completely cut off by the Arabs, we were beginning to grow very uneasy, when we received, at last, the news of the capture of Cairo, and the subsequent movements of the army. Gratien * is at Rosetta, where I hope to join him in a few days, and to take him with me to Cairo. Hyacinth is still with me; but there is a probability of his quitting us, if he obtains (as we all wish he may) a more suitable place in the military administration.—He is down for it, and is well recommended.

We are all in good health; and, if we were not deprived of sleep by innumerable species of insects which devour us alive, we should find ourselves tolerably happy amidst all the embarrassments, and all the privations, to which you may easily conclude we are exposed. We are, besides, fully occupied in fortifying Alexandria, and on other objects which have an immediate reference to our security; and, indeed, our existence.

* Gratien, and Hyacinth mentioned just below, appear to be Le Pere's brothers.

Nothing is yet arranged ; but I already divine that we (myself and the fourteen engineers who are here) shall form three brigades ; of which I shall command one, and Citizens Girard and Bodard the other two. One brigade will remain attached to the port of Alexandria, the others will be charged with the execution of the projects relative to the Nile, and to its junction * with the Red Sea. I shall have some pretensions, both as the oldest man, and the oldest officer, to choose what I may conceive to be the most striking service.

We live extremely ill, and in spite of the army allowance, are at a considerable expence. With this exception, we are prepared for every thing ; for we know that we are still in the desert of Egypt at Alexandria, and that 'tis only in approaching the Nile, and entering the Delta, we can find a country rich in cultivation, and abounding in wealth of all kinds ! †

I intend to draw up a short account of our transactions, and inclose it in the present letter. You will have the goodness to communicate it to our friends, and then transmit it to St. Germain.

A thousand kind things from all three of us to our friends and acquaintances. Hyacinth is writing to M. Boursier, who will doubtless communicate to you the details and news which he sends him.

* See the INTRODUCTION.

† We have already remarked in the First Part of this Correspondence (p. 120.) on the absurd ideas of the French at Alexandria, respecting the resources of the Delta.

Adieu, dear mother ; we embrace you with all our hearts.

LE PERE.

P. S.* Here then, are more than three months, my dear mother, of total separation ! since we have not even the satisfaction of thinking that any of our letters have reached you ; and not one of yours has reached us. We please ourselves with fancying that you are happier than we are : for independently of the want of money, we have also to support that of the few resources of a country overcharged with many thousands of mouths. Nor is this our greatest evil : we can take no repose ; and insects of all kinds add to our sufferings. Our zeal, however, is not cooled by this accumulation of misery. We expect an order to proceed to Cairo. Gratien has been from us a fortnight. He is at Rosetta, about ten leagues from hence, and in a country somewhat less wretched.

You will hear with pleasure of the success of the army. Le Pere is writing you a long circulatory letter, and I am preparing one for Monsieur le Boursier.

Adieu, my dear mother ; I embrace you with all my heart.

P. S. August the 5th. Excuse me from giving you the promised "account" of our successes. The defeat of our fleet in the dreadful action of the 1st instant, is a calamity which leaves us here as children, totally lost to the mother country. NOTHING BUT PEACE CAN

* This postscript seems to be added by Hyacinth : in that which follows Le Pere resumes the pen.

RESTORE US TO HER. But, gracious heavens! how much will this incomparable victory raise the pretensions of the English! we are all pierced to the soul by it, but courage and Bonaparte still remain.

I would give you some details of the engagement, were I not afraid that, as my letter is open, they might prevent its ever reaching you. It is best, therefore, to be silent.

No. IX.

Alexandrie, le 18 Thermidor, an 6.

LE PERE au Citoyen BEYTZ, Représentant du Peuple au
Conseil des Cinq Cents, à Paris.

J'IGNORE, Citoyen et ami, si mes précédentes vous seront parvenues ; j'en doute, parceque j'ai des raisons d'en douter.

Jusqu'à lors les nouvelles ont été excellentes, aujourd'hui c'est le revers de la médaille que je vous présente. Nos succès sont constants sur terre, tant que Bonaparte les organise, et nous espérons toujours le conserver ; mais sa tête et sa fortune n'accompagnoient plus notre escadre. Affligez-vous avec moi en lisant ces détails.

Depuis la prise du Caire notre sort s'amélioroit sous tous les rapports. Le nombre de nos partisans grossissoit, et notre sécurité étoit fondée ; mais les Anglois, ces fiers ennemis, enragés sans doute de notre succès, et de nous avoir manqué partout, ne pouvoient plus douter de notre présence ici, paroissent le 13 devant Alexandrie. Ils marchent sur Aboukir, petit port distant de quatre lieues à l'est, où notre escadre étoit mouillée en ligne de bataille, et soi-disant embossée.

Ils connoissoient trop bien notre position, et leur conduite va le prouver. Les Anglois toujours à la voile, fondent sur l'aîle droite de l'escadre, coupent la ligne, se portent plusieurs sur chacun de nos vaisseaux, les

écrasent tour-à-tour, sans que ces vaisseaux, paralysés par l'ancrage, puissent manœuvrer pour se secourir mutuellement.

Le 13 à six heures du soir, l'action s'engage, le feu devient terrible, et le combat sanglant ; il dure jusqu'à trois heures, reprend à cinq, et cesse à neuf. Les Anglois, fort maltraités d'ailleurs, sont maîtres du champ de bataille, et des débris de notre escadre. Nos vaisseaux successivement démâtés, échoués, criblés, et écrasés, enfin plus ou moins, deviennent la proie de nos ennemis. Deux de nos vaisseaux et deux frégates seulement trouvent leur salut dans la fuite, et vont porter en France peut-être, la bien triste nouvelle de cette défaite, dont il est peu d'exemple, et dont l'effet doit nous être plus sensible encore ici qu'à la mère patrie.

Trois heures après que l'action fut engagée, le feu prit malheureusement à-bord de l'Orient, et nous eumes ici l'affreux spectacle d'un vaisseau embrasé ; il brûla près d'une heure, et une explosion terrible le fit disparaître. Nous ignorions, à la vérité, que ce fût un vaisseau François, et le vaisseau amiral ! Je n'ose pas dire ce qu'il a péri de monde avec l'Amiral, et beaucoup d'officiers distingués.

Les Anglois avoient quatorze vaisseaux et un seul brick, sans frégates. Nous avions treize vaisseaux, quatre frégates, et quelques petits batimens. Notre position eut infalliblement doublé nos forces, si nous eussions été plus près de terre, plus serrés en ligne de bataille pour ne pas être coupés, et si nous eussions été véritablement embossés ; mais, mais,—que de mais ?

Il faut cependant rendre hommage au courage de nos marins, qui se sont battus comme des lions.

Le Général Bonaparte étoit au Caire, et sa tête et sa

fortune n'étoient plus compagnes de l'escadre. Il sera d'autant plus affligé de cette catastrophe, que cette affaire ne se fût pas engagée, si l'Amiral avoit été plus ardent à remplir ses intentions, qui étoit de faire entrer l'escadre dans le port d'Alexandrie (où sont tous les bâtimens de convoi) aussitôt que les passes auroient été bien connues, et elles se trouvoient déterminées depuis quinze jours ; mais, dit-on, des spéculations d'orgueil s'opposoient à ce qu'il entrât dans Alexandrie ; et voilà comme de malheureuses considérations allument un terrible incendie !

Puissent les Anglois, occupés à se reparer pour remettre à la voile, s'en retourner à Gibraltar, et ne rien tenter, soit ici, soit à Malthe, soit ailleurs !

Nous autres gens-de-terre, nous ne perdons cependant pas courage, et notre confiance est sans bornes dans Bonaparte.

Mes amitiés et respects à Madame, aux dames de Gand, et à votre société.

Mille choses amicales à votre collègue d'Ostende (dont le nom m'échappe, et aux Citoyens Hopsomère et Meyer.

Ma santé est bonne, et je suis fort occupé. J'espère me rendre à Rosette et au Caire incessamment. Je vous écris à la hâte pour profiter d'un aviso qui va partir.

LE PERE.

TRANSLATION.

Alexandria, (18 Thermidor) August 5th.

LE PERE, to Citizen BEYTZ, Representative of the
People, in the Council of Five Hundred.

I KNOW not, Citizen and Friend, whether my former letters have reached you ; I am inclined to think they have not, and this for several reasons.

Hitherto the news which I have had to send you has been excellent : to-day it is my fate to present you with the reverse of the medal. Our success by land is invariable, and while we have Bonaparte to organize it, I flatter myself that it will always continue so ; but his judgment and his fortune no longer influence and direct our fleet. Weep with me, while you peruse the melancholy detail.

Ever since the capture of Cairo, our condition had been improving in every respect.* The number of our

* This a mere *gratis dictum*. The famous battle of the Pyramids (as it is modestly called by "the Hero of Italy") was fought on the 21st of July. Cairo was entered on the 22d, and Bonaparte's dispatches are dated on the 23d. It did not probably take less than five or six days to bring the news to Alexandria ; but we are, luckily, not left to conjecture in the business : having the authority of the writer himself (see the preceding letter) for saying that the news of the capture of Cairo reached Alexandria on the 30th. Now, the engagement off Aboukir took place on the night of the 31st, which leaves just *one* day for the ameliorations so sensibly felt by Le Pere ! And thus it is that Frenchmen deceive themselves and the world !

partizans was increasing, and our security becoming more and more assured ; but the English,* those high spirited enemies, frantic at having missed us everywhere, and become certain at length, of finding us here, appeared off Alexandria, on the 31st ult. They made sail for Aboukir, a kind of port about four leagues to the east of the city, where our fleet was at anchor, and, as it flattered itself, strongly moored.

The English were but too well acquainted with our situation, as their conduct sufficiently proves. With their fleet still under sail, they fell upon the right division of our squadron, broke the line (several of their vessels falling upon each of ours) and entirely demolished it, before any of the other ships, rendered useless by their being at anchor, could move to its assistance.

The action began at six in the evening ; the fire was terrible, and the action bloody. It lasted till three in

* Our enemies seem to take a barbarous pleasure in mortifying the Morning Chronicle, and in disclaiming, by anticipation, the sacrifice it is so forward to make of English courage at the shrine of Falsehood and of France. "The DISGRACED English," says that paper, "FEARED TO LOOK BONAPARTE IN THE FACE." "The HIGH-SPIRITED English," says Le Père, "FRANTIC AT HAVING MISSED HIM, AND BECOME CERTAIN OF FINDING US HERE, appeared," &c.

We hope this will prove a lesson to the M. C. and induce it in future—not to do its country justice, this we cannot hope,—but to be silent, when from the absurd and shameless nature of its LIES, it must be manifest to all the world, that the French will be compelled to reject them, with a blush at such unskilful attempts to serve them. This is not the first time that they have been driven to exclaim of the Morning Chronicle and its coadjutors,

———— Pol ! occidistis, AMICI,—

the morning, ceased for a short time, began again at five, and finally terminated at nine. The English, though greatly disabled, are masters of the field of battle, and of the wrecks of our fleet. Our ships successively dismasted, crippled, and more or less torn to pieces, are become the prey of our enemies; two sail of the line only, and two frigates, have found their safety in flight, and are gone, perhaps, to France, to carry the most melancholy intelligence of a defeat, of which there are few examples, and of which the effects will be more sensibly felt here, than in the mother country.

Three hours after the action commenced, the *l'Orient* unfortunately took fire; and we had from this place the dreadful spectacle of a ship in flames; it burnt for near an hour, and then disappeared with a tremendous explosion. We were ignorant at the time, indeed, that it was a French ship, especially the flag one. I want courage to tell you how many brave men perished, and how many distinguished officers.

The English had only fourteen sail of the line, and a brig; we had thirteen sail of the line, four frigates, and a few gun-boats. Our position would have infallibly doubled our strength, if we had been a little nearer the shore, formed in a closer line of battle, so as not to be broken, and really and truly moored; but, but,—ah! how many buts!

I must, however, do justice to the courage of our seamen, who fought like lions.

General Bonaparte was at Cairo, and his judgment and his fortune * were no longer companions of the fleet.

* This is the second time, in this letter, that those words have occurred. To talk of the "judgment" of Bonaparte in a naval

He will be so much the more afflicted at this catastrophe, as it could not have taken place, if the Admiral had been more anxious to execute his plans, which were to carry all the ships into the Port of Alexandria (where the transports, &c. already were), as soon as the channels should be properly surveyed, and that had now been

engagement is almost too ridiculous for a Frenchman. What his "fortune" might have done, we know not; but if we are allowed to say what we think on the subject, we shall just observe, that though it would not have delayed the victory a single moment, yet if the General had been present, and either fallen like the ill-fated Brueys, or been blown up like the innocent hostages (Part I. p. 193), it "might have been truly salutary to the army, which, by a speedy surrender, would have probably rescued itself from the lingering but inevitable destruction to which his "judgment and his fortune," or, to call things by their true names, his perfidy and his cruelty have destined it!

But did Le Père continue to think thus highly of the General? We fancy not. A letter, which there is every reason to believe authentic, but of which we certainly do not possess the original, has been transmitted to one of the most respectable Journals on the Continent, the *Journal de Francfort*, and inserted in its 332d Number. It is from Le Père to the same Beytz, to whom our letter is addressed, but is of a later date (10 Fructidor, August 27.); and contains, besides a recapitulation of what we have given above, several additional circumstances, highly worthy of a place in this collection.

"Amidst a variety of distressing accidents; daily reduced in our numbers by trifling checks, or rather by multiplied assassinations, constantly on the alarm amongst a people heedless of the blessings of liberty, and whose ignorant superstition menaces us without ceasing; obliged to take all those precautions which are rendered necessary by an invasion, for which the way has not been smoothed before hand; and reduced to a scarcity of food, which can only be extorted from the natives by dint

done near a fortnight. Speculations of pride, it is whispered, prevented this from being done ; and thus it is that mean and selfish considerations produce the most terrible calamities.

Would to Heaven that the English, fully occupied with the repair of their fleet, may return immediately

of money ; we still flattered ourselves with the hopes of a favourable change, when the disastrous business of the 1st of August came to overwhelm, to annihilate, and to mark our future fortune, with the image of all the furies which are destined to pursue us.

“ Brueys, who fell like a hero, is become the scape-goat, and will be obliged to carry off all the blame. It is said by many well-informed people, that he wished to sail immediately after the debarkation of the troops, but that Bonaparte objected to it ; and, indeed, it is not easy to conceive why the General should obstinately persist in compelling our fleet (which consisted at that very time of fifteen sail of the line, twelve frigates, and a large galley) to hide itself in the port of Alexandria, when it was highly capable, if not of beating the English, yet certainly of contesting the day with them ; and, at all events, was sufficiently strong to return to Toulon, to protect the sailing of the second expedition.

“ What will become of us now, that we have the mortification of being blocked up by three sail of the line and three frigates, which take all our advice boats before our face, and deprive us of all news and all succour. In vain do they attempt to fool us on this head, with pretending that we shall be relieved, as soon as the forces which we have at Corfou, Malta, and Toulon, have joined. Children may be amused with such trifling ; but we are not quite simple enough to believe that Admiral Nelson will permit this junction to be effected.

“ The General has fortified Damietta, and several other important posts ; he has also detached Desaix into the Said, after Morad Bey. We ought to believe that Bonaparte has no intention of precipitating our fate, by thus extending and dividing

to Gibraltar, without making any attempts on these seas, either at Malta or elsewhere.

We who compose the land forces, however, still keep up our courage; our confidence in Bonaparte is unbounded.

My best respects to your wife, to the ladies De Gand, and to your little society.

A thousand friendly things to your colleague from Ostend (I forget his name), and to the Citizens Hopsonere and Meyer.

My health is good, and I have my hands full of business. I hope to leave this place almost immediately for Rosetta and Cairo. I write in haste that I may be in time for the packet, which is on the point of sailing.

LE PERE.

his army: but, I repeat it, without succours from France, our future condition will be most miserable. We are enervated by the climate, and tormented and harrassed to death by insects. Our army is consumed by sickness and continual losses. Many of our detachments of cavalry have already disappeared. Since the last victims which I named to you, we have lost the Commissary Jaubert, Peyres, and Renard. Such is our situation, which, considering the rooted hatred of the Egyptians, and the never-ending hostility of the Arabs, I must look on as the second volume of our ancient crusades, if the English persist in their interceptions. And, good Heavens! who knows but the Turks will also declare war against us!"

No. X.

TRANSLATION

Of the Extracts from General BONAPARTE'S Letter to his Brother. See the Fac Simile, No. I.

Cairo (7 Thermidor), July 28th.

To Citizen JOSEPH BONAPARTE, Deputy to the Council of Five Hundred, at Paris.

YOU will see in the public papers the relation of the battles, and of the conquest of Egypt, which has been sufficiently disputed to add another leaf to the military glory of this army. Egypt is the richest country in the world, in wheat, rice, pulse, and cattle. Barbarism is at its height. THERE IS NO MONEY IN THE COUNTRY; * NO, NOT EVEN TO PAY THE TROOPS. I THINK OF BEING IN FRANCE IN TWO MONTHS — —

* THERE IS NO MONEY IN THE COUNTRY! It is worth observation, that this sentence was written the very day after Bonaparte had declared in his official letters, to all Europe, that on the bodies of the two thousand Mameloucs, who fell in the "battle of the Pyramids," his soldiers had found 20,000,000 livres in specie!!! (First Part, p. 64.)

But this is not all,—it appears from the next line that Egypt was expected to furnish money for the troops. This is a precious circumstance, and affords matter for deep reflection.



Nº 3



found on the
lower of the
series,

Nº 5

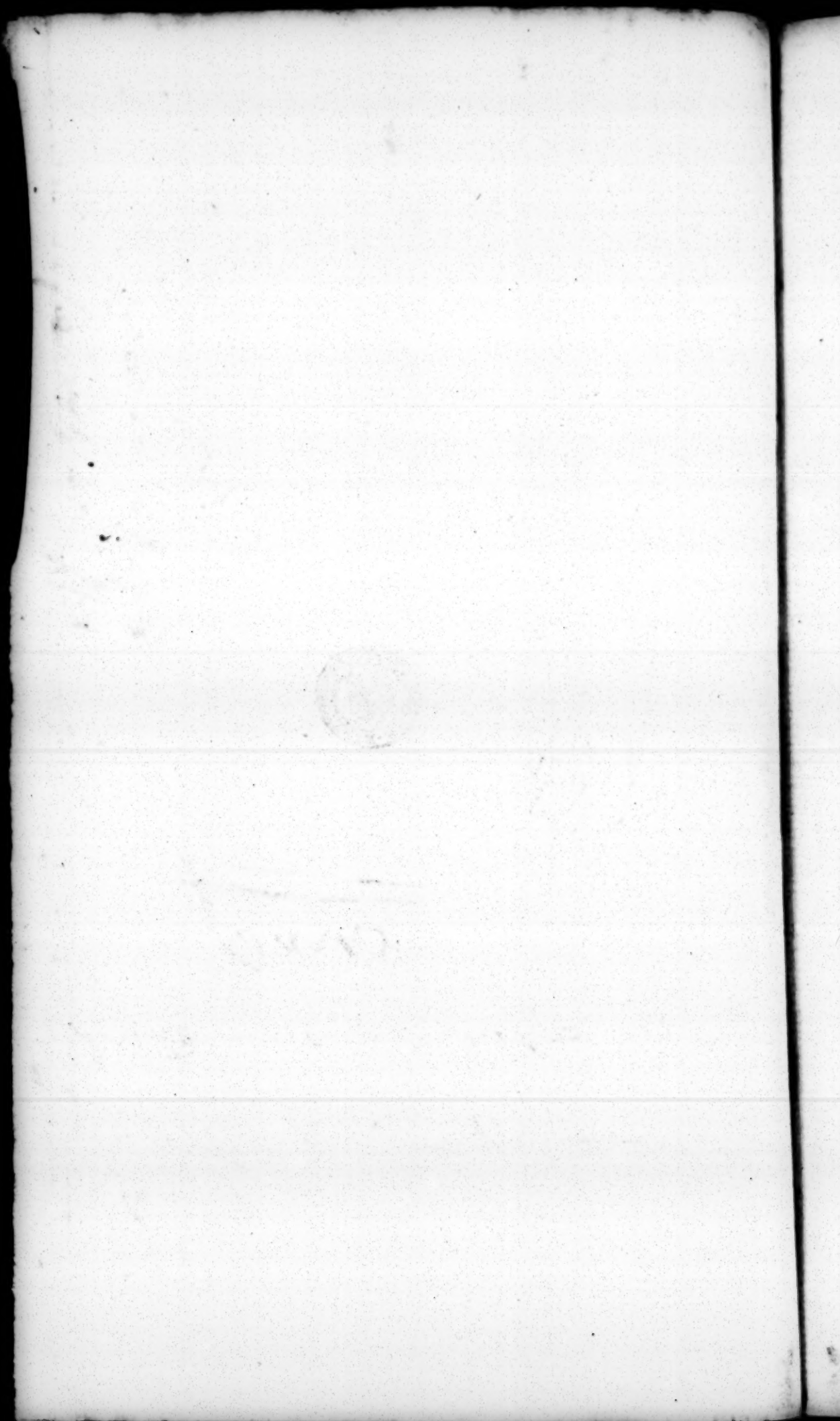
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Nº 2



Take your measures so that I may have a country seat at my arrival, either in the neighbourhood of Paris, or in Burgundy : I RECKON ON PASSING THE WINTER THERE

— — — — —

Bonaparte left France, perhaps, without a single day's pay for his army. The plunder of Malta, except a few ingots which were distributed amongst the merchants of Alexandria, with a view of being speedily reclaimed, was on board the *L'Orient* ; and with the expected treasures of Cairo, and the grand caravan, was, undoubtedly, destined to swell the private fortunes of the General and his confidants : while the troops were to be left as in Swabia, and Franconia, and Brabant, and Holland, and Italy, and Swisserland, to support themselves by wresting from the inhabitants, who are thus, in mockery, made "free, and prosperous, and happy," the miserable reliques of the rapacity of the officers, and the agents of Government!

If the reader has noticed the Introduction to the First Part of this Correspondence, he has seen that we unequivocally declined inserting such of Bonaparte's letters, as from their nature did not materially interest the Public. One sentence, indeed, we quoted (Introduct. p. xvii.) from the letter before us ; and here we should have rested, had not the French (see the *Decade Philosophique*, No. 12.) made an ungenerous use of our reserve, and insinuated that we had no authority for the passage in question, because we forbore to produce the letter of which it made a part. "Quant à Bonaparte," say the French critics (speaking of what was advanced in the Introduction respecting the plan of getting rid of the Italian army) "il s'est prêté à ce petit arrangement en se proposant d'abandonner au premier instant ses camarades, pour revenir passer l'hiver en Bourgogne." This is quoted with a triumphant sneer, as a fabrication, perhaps, of the English editors', too atrocious to be attributed to a person of Bonaparte's well known justice and humanity. Good ! we have now given an extract from one of the General's letters, in which the ob-

noxious expression occurs twice in the compass of a few lines; the atrociousness, therefore, (if there be any, which we are not inclined to deny) must be transferred elsewhere.

Now we are on this subject, we shall take the opportunity of making a short remark.

When the First Part of this Correspondence was committed to the press, no particular pains were taken to establish its authenticity. It certainly did not enter into our contemplation, that any description of persons could be weak or wicked enough to deny, what was so incontestably proved by internal evidence, (to say nothing of the Original Letters having been always open to inspection), and the event has proved, that any explanation on our part, would have been altogether a work of supererogation,—for, except the Morning Chronicle which “has taken a retaining fee,” to deny sturdily whatever compromises the honour of France, and the editors of the *Decade Philosophique*, who limit their doubts to the single passage we have mentioned, doubts which they will now wish, perhaps, they had either not entertained, or not expressed; we know of no one that has called the authenticity of the Letters in question. Should there, however, be such a person, we will once for all, solemnly assure him, that we have given them in all and every part precisely as they came from the hands of the original writers, without the alteration, or addition of a single syllable, and with merely such occasional omissions as we have already mentioned, and as a regard for the delicacy of our readers seemed to render indispensable.

No. XI.

Au Grand Caire, le 18 Thermidor.

SUCY, Commissaire Ordonnateur, au Citoyen JOSEPH
BONAPARTE, à Paris.

MILLE occupations, mon cher Joseph, m'ont empêché de vous donner jusqu'à présent de mes nouvelles et de celles du Général; j'ai su d'ailleurs que vous en aviez régulièrement. Les fatigues de la dernière marche l'ont bien un peu éprouvé, mais il les a supportées, je vous assure, mieux que tout autre. Avec lui seul l'armée pouvoit surmonter les obstacles sans nombre qu'elle a rencontrés, et que l'on ne pouvoit prévoir d'après les renseignements fournis.

Il y a beaucoup à espérer de ce pays, mais il est des succès auxquels le tems doit concourir. Je dicte, ne pouvant encore me servir de ma main. On augure bien de ma blessure. Ma peine est de ne pouvoir être utile à votre frère, comme je le désirerais. Nous sommes dans l'attente des nouvelles de Paris: il y a bien des événements qui pourroient modifier notre position; cette attente est toujours pénible.

Mes hommages à vos dames; le citoyen Hasselavere se porte fort bien, il est employé ici dans l'administration des biens des Mamelouks. Adieu, conservez-

moi de l'amitié pour le tendre attachement que je vous ai voué pour la vie.

SUCY.

P. S. Vous savez que Louis, fatigué un peu de sa traversée, est resté à Alexandrie.

TRANSLATION.

Cairo (18 Thermidor), August 5th.

SUCY,* *First Commissary, &c. to Citizen JOSEPH BONAPARTE, at Paris.*

A THOUSAND occupations, my dear Joseph, have hitherto prevented my giving you any account of myself, or of the General: I was assured, besides, that you regularly heard of him in the course of business.

The fatigues of the last march tried his constitution a little: but he supported them, I can assure you, better

* This is the only letter which we find from the First Commissary. To judge from the frequent and respectful mention made of him, Suty must enjoy a high degree of consideration in Egypt: this is not, perhaps, to be wondered at, when we consider him as possessed of the most lucrative and important post in the civil administration of the army.

His letter is no farther of importance, than as it shews the utter-impossibility of deriving any advantage from Egypt. To

than any other person. With him alone, the army could have surmounted the innumerable obstacles which it had to encounter, and which there was no possibility of foreseeing or guarding against, from the information it was supplied with.

There is much to be hoped for from this country ; but then this hope is of the nature of those which a length of time alone can realize. I am obliged to dictate, not being yet in a condition to use my hand : the surgeon thinks favourably, however, of my wound. My chief pain arises from not being able to be as useful to your brother as I could wish. We are all anxious to hear from Paris. Many things may have happened to affect our situation ; and this consideration makes our anxiety truly painful.

My respects to your ladies. Citizen Hasselavere is in good health, and employed here in the administration of the effects of the Mameloucs.—Adieu. Preserve your friendship for me, in return for the tender attachment with which I have sworn to be ever yours.

SUCY.

say this in express terms, could neither be expected from Sucy, nor would have been borne by Joseph Bonaparte : it is, therefore, represented as the country of hope. But to talk to a Frenchman of a good to be produced by the slow progress of time, is to hold an unintelligible language. The present, is all that exists for him, and he snatches what it offers with an avidity that shews at once his distrust, and contempt of the future.

Volumes might be written on this subject, but we content ourselves with referring to Bonaparte's Italian conquests for an elucidation of our remark.

P. S. You know that Louis*, fatigued a little by his voyage, was left at Alexandria.

* Louis Bonaparte, the General's brother. In the last French papers which reached this country, it is stated that Louis Bonaparte, accompanied by General Berthier, was arrived at Ajaccio in Corsica. This we doubt. Berthier, we have some reason to think, is the last man Bonaparte would part with; even though his escape to Alexandria were feasible, which is probably not the case. With respect to Louis Bonaparte, who had wisdom enough to decline marching into the country, it is barely possible that he may have found his way back to France; and therefore, whatever may be our private opinion, we shall not, at present, call in question that part of the statement.

It is difficult to conceive any thing more strict than the watch kept by our vigilant tars over the ports of Alexandria. We have seen several letters from the masters of those neutral vessels which the French found there, and which Commodore Hood has permitted to withdraw; and they all concur in saying, that the severest scrutiny was made, not only of their papers, but of their crews,—so that it was scarcely possible for any thing to pass without discovery.

As to the vessels which the French took up in the several ports of Italy, and for the hire of which Bonaparte has promised to pay by the plunder of the Egyptian villages; they cannot stir. Eleven of them, which madly attempted it, were taken in sight of the place, and immediately burnt. With respect to the French ships, the case is still more hopeless. To the danger of being captured by us, are superadded others of a much more formidable nature, which they have provoked by their perfidy and cruelty, and which they will not in future (notwithstanding their anxiety to escape from "that land of horrors,") be very forward to encounter. Three of their ships (we take the account from themselves) full of wounded men, and fugitives who had escaped the vigilance of the Commandant of Alexandria, took advantage of the night, and the temporary absence of our cruizers, and

slipped out. What was their fate? One of them, we hope it was that with the wounded men on board, fell in with the Zealous, and was captured. Another ran into Scyphanto, one of the Greek isles, and was seized by the inhabitants. The passengers and crew, amounting to fifty-four in all, were immediately carried to Constantinople, and thrown into the dungeon of the galley slaves; while the Scyphantines were liberally rewarded for their loyalty and zeal. The third put into one of the harbours of Crete, where the people, who, as the French editor very justly observes, are not *modérés*, put every man of them to death, and sent their heads to decorate the gates of the Seraglio.

Notwithstanding all this, it is not quite impossible but that some one, more happy than the rest, may yet escape; and therefore the Directory contrive to amuse the relatives of their victims, by permitting their papers to notify from time to time the arrival of this or that particular person in some distant port—for it should be observed, that they are never said to have arrived in France!

This is an admirable expedient; but it does not always succeed: for as the French Government is without any intelligence from Egypt, but through the medium of Turkey, or of this country, it sometimes happens that the arrival of a man is announced, who, in the classical phraseology of their orators, had “ceased to live” some months before. Thus, they lately gave us a letter from Leghorn, said to be written by a Citizen Julien, who was just returned, full of good news from Grand Cairo. This was an unlucky guess,—*τον ἤδη κατεχεν φουρ-σουλᾶς*: Citizen Julien’s voyages had long been over. He was “assassinated,” as Bonaparte terms it in his official papers, “with *fifteen* other Frenchmen, at the village of Askam.” That is to say, (for we know the fact) he was sent with a company of grenadiers to plunder the village of its grain. The inhabitants defended their property with a fury bordering on despair, and in the conflict Julien and his fifty-six marauders were killed.

It should not be forgot here that the “hero of Italy,” mad with

rage and disappointment, sent, in his own words, "a strong division of the army" to pull down the few mud huts of this wretched village, and exterminate the miserable inhabitants,—by way of enlightening the rest of the Egyptians, we suppose, in the saving doctrine of the true RIGHTS OF MAN.

No. XII.

Au Grand Caire, le 20 Thermidor.

C. LASALLE, *Chef de Brigade du 22^e Régiment de Chasseurs à Cheval, à l'Armée d'Orient, à sa Mère.*

AU moment de partir avec le Général en Chef, pour aller au devant d'une caravane importante, dont les Mamelouks se sont emparés, et qu'il faut leur arracher des mains, j'apprends qu'on prépare un courrier à partir, ma très chère maman : les occasions sont si rares que je ne puis laisser échapper celle-ci, sans vous donner de mes nouvelles.

Ni la fatigue, ni la chaleur, ni la privation de vin, n'ont altéré en rien ma santé ; au contraire j'engraisse à vue d'œil. Je ne regrette qu'une seule chose ; ce sont mes pauvres cheveux. L'extrême chaleur les fait tous tomber. J'attribue aussi une grande partie de cette perte au manque de poudre et de pomade.

Le Général Bonaparte, toujours prodigue de bontés pour moi, m'a donné le commandement des hommes à cheval du 7^e d'hussards, et du 22^e de chasseurs ; me voilà petit Général. Souvent il m'invite à dîner, et il me place toujours à sa droite. J'ai une peine infinie à former mon nouveau corps, délabré autant que pos-

sible ; mais j'espere en venir à mon honneur à force d'activité.

On nous assure qu'il arrivera d'ici à quelques mois, des renforts de France, et que nous retournerons dans notre pays. C'est le vœu de l'armée, qui, quoi qu'aussi bien qu'il est possible pour le pays, a le cœur trop Français pour ne pas préférer notre pays à celui-ci.

Nous avons déjà 800 chevaux Arabes uniques pour la course. J'en ai trois. Les officiers de mon régiment seconduisent fort bien à mon égard, et m'ont donné de grandes preuves d'estime.

Heureusement, vu mon nouvel emploi, j'ai peu de tems à réfléchir, et je suis trop fatigué le soir pour rêver tout éveillé ; car sans cela je sens que je succomberois à la peine que j'éprouve de me savoir loin de tout ce qui m'est cher au monde, ma mère, mon père, ma maitresse et mon fils. Quelques fois cependant des idées, des regrets amers se présentent, je soupire, une larme coule, et je cherche aussitôt à m'arracher de ma mélancholie. O pauvre Charles, comme tu passes ta jeunesse ! O devoir, que tu es rigoureux !

J'espère cependant que par le même bonheur qui m'accompagne au milieu des batailles, le ciel aura respecté vos jours. Je me rejouis de baiser un jour votre main respectable, de tarir par mes embrassemens les pleurs que vous avez versés pour moi. O maman, j'ai bien besoin de vous serrer dans mes bras !

Mon fidel Joseph est toujours avec moi ; il m'est bien utile, et je ne saurois dire les soins attentifs qu'il a de moi. Je suis sure que Colin en a bien autant de vous, aussi je lui promets bien un beau shall des Indes, &c. ; si nous prenons la caravane.

Adieu, bonne, recevez cent baisers bien tendres, et

présentez mon respectueux hommage à mon vieux père, que j'aime et revere.

Amitié à mes amis, et respects à qui de droit.

CHARLES LASALLE.

TRANSLATION.

Grand Cairo, August 7th.

C. LASALLE, *Chief of Brigade of the 22nd Regiment of Chasseurs à Cheval, of the Army of the East, to his Mother.*

ON the eve of setting out with the Commander in Chief, to intercept a most valuable caravan which the Mameloucs have seized, and which must, at all events, be wrested out of their hands, I learn, my dear mother, that a courier is preparing to leave Cairo. Opportunities occur so seldom, that I cannot think of letting this escape without giving you a line.

Neither fatigue, nor heat, nor the privation of wine, have hitherto had the smallest effect on my health ; on the contrary, I get flesh every day. I have but one thing to regret, and that is my poor hair, which is all fallen off through the excessive heat ; assisted, I believe, in some degree, by my total want of powder and pomatum.

General Bonaparte, always prodigal of his kindness, has given me the command of the mounted troops of the 7th hussars, and the 22nd chasseurs. Here I am then, a little General! he often invites me to dinner, and always places me at his right hand. I have an infinite deal of trouble to form my new corps, which is in the most ruinous state you can possibly conceive,—by dint of incessant exertions, however, I hope to succeed to my honour.

We are assured that in the course of a few months, re-inforcements from France will arrive here, and that we shall then return home. This is the wish of the whole army, which, though as well circumstanced as it is possible to be in a country like this,* is too truly French in heart, not to prefer its native land to Egypt!

We have already 800 Arabian horses, excellent runners,—I have three for my own share. The officers of

* This is put gently enough of a place which we know every man in the army regarded with horror,—but “poor Charles” dined too often with the General to speak out, especially after being just put on the staff.

The paragraph, however, is important in another point of view. It shows the profound hypocrisy and wickedness of Bonaparte, almost as clearly as his Catholic and Mahometan Professions of Faith. He assures his devoted followers, that they shall return to France as soon as re-inforcements arrive, when he knew (as is proved by his letters) that he had sent for every ship of war (by whose aid alone such arrivals were possible) to protect his own escape with the accumulated plunder of Egypt, while the army would be abandoned to its fate!

Providence, however, has frustrated the execrable design; and, with that justice which so often defeats the schemes of interested wickedness, decreed, that this Artificer of ill should share the destruction he was exclusively preparing for others.

my regiment behave extremely well, and have given me many striking proofs of their esteem.

Happily, in consequence of my new employ, I have little time for reflection, and am too much fatigued when night comes, to dream broad awake.—Without this, I feel that I should sink under the wretchedness I experience, from the consideration that I am far removed from every thing that is dear to me in the world,—from my mother, my father, my mistress,* and my little boy. Sometimes, however, sad ideas, bitter regrets will force themselves upon me; a sigh breaks forth, a tear trickles down my cheek, and I hasten to tear myself from my melancholy reverie.—O poor Charles! how art thou passing thy youth! O duty! why art thou so rigorous!

I flatter myself that the same kind providence which has hitherto accompanied me in the heat of battle, has also watched over your life.† I anticipate the pleasure I shall one day have in kissing your honoured hand, and in drying up, by my embraces, the tears you have not ceased to shed for me.—O my dearest mother! I want,

* We have already noticed the frequency with which parents are made the confidants, and sometimes the promoters, of the licentious amours of their children, in these Letters. The present instance, indeed, is venial, if compared—but enough; we have done with the subject.

† This is, perhaps, making Charles talk rather too much like a Christian: but as the thought is awkwardly expressed in the original, and as the young man seems really to retain some vestiges of the “old superstition” of his country, we have let it stand. The reader may be assured that we have not many peccadilloes of this nature to answer for. Except in their oaths, the French letters make few appeals to heaven.

—I cannot express how much I want, to fold you in my arms!

My faithful Joseph is still with me. He is extremely useful, and I cannot tell you how much I am indebted to his care and attention. I have no doubt but that you are just as much indebted to Colin for his, and I therefore seriously promise him a fine Indian shawl, &c. if we seize the caravan.*

Adieu,—take a thousand tender kisses, and present

* It will afford no small satisfaction, we believe, to most of our readers, to know that this valuable caravan escaped the hands of this rapacious banditti. They came up with it, indeed, as we learn from several of the Letters, but found it covered in so masterly a manner by Ibrahim Bey, and so gallantly defended by his handful of Mameloucs, that the French, after several ineffectual attempts, and losing the greatest part of their new-raised cavalry (alas! for poor Charles!) were compelled to make a disgraceful retreat before less than half their numbers! It appears (and we mention it for the exclusive benefit of the admirers of the “invincible Bonaparte,” who commanded in person) that the Mameloucs not only fought with more bravery, but with more skill than their opponents; and that if Ibrahim had not judged, and *rightly* judged, it more expedient to secure his convoy, than to pursue his baffled enemy, very few of them would have got back to Cairo, to amuse the world with a splendid narrative of their triumphant expedition towards Syria!

In the contest we have mentioned, there were no cannon on either side. The event furnished a most important lesson, which we trust the Mameloucs will never forget. They will not in future encumber themselves with an artillery which they cannot serve, nor attack their enemies when protected by it. They will content themselves with harassing them, with falling on detached parties unprovided with those formidable means of offence; and their superior courage and activity will eventu-

my respectful duty to my aged father, whom I love and revere.

My kind remembrances to all my friends, and respects where they are due.

CHARLES LASALLE.

ally reduce the French to the necessity of surrendering at discretion.

Though firmly persuaded of the truth of every syllable we have set down, we should not have mentioned it on less authority than that of the French officers, from whose letters we have taken all this, and might have taken much more; for they have been beaten into truth, and mortified into humility.

No. XIII.

Au Grand Caire, le 20 Thermidor,

C. LASALLE, *Chef de Brigade, &c. &c. à sa*
JOSEPHINE.

Je n'ai point encore reçu de tes nouvelles, ma regrettée Joséphine. Le malheur a voulu que trois couriers qui étoient arrivés à Malte ayant été chargés sur le même bâtiment, les Anglais l'ont pris et on a jetté les lettres à la mer. Elle a englouti bien des richesses, mais jamais un trésor qui valut pour moi une lettre de toi !

Je vais partir dans l'instant avec le 7^e d'hussards et mon régiment. Le Général Bonaparte, qui m'accable d'honnetetés et de bontés, vient de m'en donner le commandement. Nous allons au devant d'une caravane dont les Mamelouks se sont emparés ; elle est importante. Nous nous battons, mais le bonheur et toi qui m'ont toujours protégé, me préserveront encore cette fois-ci. Tu as dû recevoir de moi trois lettres de Malte, une d'Alexandrie, et voici la seconde du Caire. Je ne puis t'écrire plus souvent. Je suis écrasé d'ouvrage pour l'organisation de mon nouveau corps, qui est très-délabré.

Ton frere me fait bonne mine, parce que tu n'es pas ici. Je voudrais que ce fut le rebours. Que fait mon petit ? comme il sera beau quand je le reverrai ! car je reviendrai bientôt. Le Général Bonaparte a promis que des troupes viendront bientôt nous relever. Mais

que je serai laid moi ! la chaleur nous a rendus tous noirs comme des corbeaux, et pour comble de malheur, j'ai perdu tous mes cheveux.

Comment vas-tu de ta grossesse : mon Dieu ! qu'il est cruel de vivre dans l'anxiété sur tout ce qui m'intéresse ! Le tems du bonheur est passé. Si un instant je cesse de travailler, mon esprit se livre aux réflexions les plus noires. Je pleure, et personne ne partage ma peine. Je ne connois personne dans le régiment ; je n'ai pas d'amis, pauvre Charles ! tu as tout perdu, puisque tu n'as plus ta Joséphine. Qu'au moins tu me regrettes, et je serai un peu consolé. Je pourrais oublier que j'ai eu des jouissances au dessus de celles que doivent avoir les humains ; mais oublier que tu es mon amie, et penser à vivre sans toi, c'est ce qui ne peut entrer dans ma tête.

Adieu, je monte à cheval, et t'envoie cent baisers.

Ton

CHARLES.

TRANSLATION.

Grand Cairo (20 Thermidor), August 7th.

C. LASALLE, *Chief of Brigade, &c. &c. to his*
JOSEPHINE.

I HAVE not yet heard from you, my much regretted Josephine. Some how or other, the three couriers

which had reached Malta in safety, were unfortunately dispatched from thence in the same vessel,—this was taken by the English, and all the letters were thrown into the sea. It has swallowed worlds of wealth; but never yet a treasure that equalled, in my esteem, a single letter of yours!

I am on the eve of setting off with the 7th hussars, and my own regiment. General Bonaparte, who overwhelms me with kindness and attention, has just given me the command of them. We are going to meet a caravan which the Mameloucs have seized, and which is very valuable. We shall certainly have a struggle for it; but good fortune, and you, who have hitherto protected me, will assuredly preserve me once more.

You ought to have received three of my letters from Malta, and one from Alexandria: this is now the second from Cairo. I cannot write to you oftener. I am absolutely worn out with constant exertions to organize my new corps, which is in a most wretched state.

Your brother regards me with kindness, because you are not here: would it were the reverse! How is my bantling? what a sweet little fellow he will be when I see him again?—YES, I SHALL SOON RETURN—GENERAL BONAPARTE HAS PROMISED THAT FRESH TROOPS SHALL SPEEDILY ARRIVE FROM FRANCE TO RELIEVE US. But then how ugly shall I be! the heat has turned us all as black as crows; and, to complete my misfortunes, I have lost all my hair.

How do you proceed in your pregnancy?—Good heavens! how distressing it is to live in a state of constant uncertainty respecting all that is dear to me!

The days of happiness are passed. If I cease to exert

myself but for a moment, my mind becomes a prey to the most gloomy reflections. I weep, and no one partakes my grief. I have not a single acquaintance in the regiment, nor a friend in the country. Poor Charles! thou hast lost every thing in losing thy Josephine. Do you at least regret me, and I shall not be wholly miserable. I may forget that I have been happy beyond the lot of human nature,—but to forget that you are my best beloved, or to think of living without you, is what can never enter into my mind.

Adieu :—my horse is at the door. I send you a thousand kisses.

Your own

CHARLES.*

* We ought not to dismiss C. Lasalle without remarking, that his regiment (according to the General's dispatches) behaved extremely well. Charles himself, Bonaparte adds, "dropped his sword in charging: he alighted to recover it, and was happy enough to regain his seat just as one of the most intrepid of the Mameloucs was about to attack him." We conclude from this, that he escaped: his regiment, as we have already observed, was cut to pieces.

No. XIV.

Grand Caire, le 22 Thermidor.

*Au Citoyen ST. GENIER, Directeur des Messageries
Nationales, à Toulouse.*

Mon cher Père,

Vous devez être en peine sur mon sort ; jusqu'à ce moment nous en sommes quittes pour de grandes fatigues. Nous sommes maîtres du Grand Caire depuis quinze jours. Les Mamelouks sont à deux journées d'ici. Ils perdirent deux milles hommes dans la principale affaire que nous eumes avec eux. Le Général Bonaparte est à leur poursuite. Dans peu j'espère de vous embrasser ainsi que ma mère.

Après avoir débarquée à Alexandrie, nous nous mîmes en route pour le Caire sans vivres, sans chevaux, et avons été poursuivis jusqu'ici par des bandes d'Arabes qui étoient à cheval, et qui nous ont harcelés singulièrement. Au moment d'entreprendre cette route, le Général, voyant que nous manquions de tout, nous dit : "*Les vertus sont pour nous.*"

Dans une bataille sur le Nil, les Mamelouks ont pris tous nos effets qui étoient embarqués et nous ont laissés comme le jour que nous sommes né, avec ce que nous avons sur le corps.

Mamet, ainsi que tous les officiers qui ont resté en France sont remplacés ; j'en suis bien aise.

Embrassez ma chère mère, &c.

SAINT GENIER.

TRANSLATION.

*Grand Cairo (Thermidor), August 9th.**To Citizen ST. GENIER, &c. at Toulouse.**My dear Father,*

YOU must be under some uneasiness about me. Hitherto we have got off pretty well, at the expence only of amazing fatigues. We have been masters of Cairo this fortnight. The Mameloucs are about two days march from us: they lost two thousand men in the last action. General Bonaparte is in pursuit of them. In a little while I hope to return and embrace both you and my mother.

After landing at Alexandria, we set out for Cairo, without provisions or horses, and were pursued as far as this place, by bands of Arabs on horseback, who harrassed us in a terrible manner. Just as we were setting out, the General, seeing us in want of every thing, said to us "THE VIRTUES ARE ON OUR SIDE!"*

* How oft has the inclination to laugh outright at the absurdities discoverable in every part of this Correspondence, been checked by bitter reflection on the enormities in which they have usually terminated! the *durate atque expectate cicadas* of Nævolus was not half so severe a taunt on the miseries of his followers, as the ill-placed and incongruous exclamation of Bonaparte to his starving army. What consolation they derived from it does not appear;—but if the reader will take into consideration that they were just come from the slaughter of the Alexandrines, and were immediately to enter upon that of the Egyptians, he cannot but be mightily struck at the ALLIES here assigned them.

In an engagement on the Nile, the Mameloucs carried off all the baggage which we had put on board the flotilla, and left us as naked as we were born, with nothing but what we had on our backs !!!*

Mamet, as well as the rest of the officers who staid behind, have had their places filled up. I am glad of it. Embrace my dear mother for me.

SAINT GENIER.

* Here is the explanation of a circumstance which perplexed us in the former publication. Many of the letters complain of having lost all their effects on the Nile, while none of them inform us, in what manner. It now appears that the Mameloucs were completely victorious in the engagement near Chebreiki, that they took three of the gun-boats, which they plundered of all the baggage, and that the remaining three would have shared the same fate, but for the fortunate arrival of the army. This is further confirmed by Brigadier Dumas, (No xviii.) and thus it is, that letters in themselves of little or no merit, materially assist in filling up, and perfecting in all its parts, the eventful history of this stupendous expedition!

If the reader wishes to see how this affair is treated by the commanders of the flotilla, let him turn to the letters of Rear Admiral Perrée, and Adjutant-General Royer. First Part, Nos. xix. and xxii.

No. XV.

Au Caire, le 27 Thermidor.

L'Adjoint LACUÉE à son Oncle.

JE n'ai reçu aucune lettre de vous depuis mon départ de Toulon, mon cher oncle, et je crains bien que vous n'ayiez reçu de moi aucune nouvelle. Je juge de vos inquiétudes à mon égard, par les bienfaits dont vous m'avez comblé ; jugez de la mienne par la reconnoissance qu'ils me commandent.

Cette lettre vous parviendra peut-être ; un de mes camarades la porte, et s'embarquera sur un neutre. D'ailleurs les Anglais vainqueurs sont cependant assez maltraités pour ne pouvoir tenir la mer, et laisseront, j'espère pour quelque tems nos communications libres. Avec quelle ardeur nous le desirons ! depuis quatre mois nous ignorons ce que sont devenus nos parents et amis. Nous avons laissé la République entourée de factions, et à peine quelques gazettes insignifiantes nous sont-elles parvenues ! tous les couriers ont été saisis ; présage bien sinistre ! le seul convoi qui portoit Tallien a été respecté.

Si les dépêches du Général sont parvenues, vous aurez appris que je suis blessé, quoique au premier coup d'œil ma blessure est assez légère. La balle a respecté la langue, le gosier, les vaisseaux sanguins, et la mâchoire gauche. La — — — — a seule été

fracturée ; elle l'a été avec éclat, mais assez heureusement pour ne pas me défigurer. La playe va à merveille, je puis parler et j'espère dans quinze jours manger autre chose que de la bouillie, ou plutôt manger, car depuis un mois, je ne fais qu'avaler. Les chirurgiens prétendent que les eaux de Barege me seront nécessaires, si non indispensables ; je crois qu'elles me seront agréables, et je serois très-disposé à y aller, mais comme il est possible que le malheureux combat d'Aboukir ne rende critique la position de l'armée, et — — — — — à l'instant de la cicatrice, je resterai : mon sort sera lié à celui de l'armée, quoique j'y serve avec peu, et bien peu d'agrément, et quoique je sois bien sûr qu'on ne me saura nul gré de ce sacrifice.

La campagne que nous venons de faire est sans contredit la plus pénible qu'aient jamais fait les Français. Nos marches forcées dans le Désert sous un ciel brûlant, sur un sable plus brûlant, encore, notre disette d'eau pendant cinq jours, de pain pendant quinze, de vin pendant trois mois, sans cesse au bivouac, exposés à une rosée perfide qui aveugloit les imprudents ; tout cela est bien plus terrible que les batailles et les sieges ; il ne faut que de l'élan pour celles-ci, il faut pour l'autre du vrai courage, du courage de tête et d'âme.

Nous n'avons eu que deux batailles et trois ou quatre combats, ou plutôt nous n'avons eu que deux boucheries. Les Mamelouks n'avoient que de la bravoure, nous étions instruits et disciplinés. Ils sont venus se briser sur nos bataillons quarrés, leur imprudente valeur les a fait se précipiter entre deux de ces masses redoutables et ils y ont trouvé leur tombe. Vaincus et sans autre espoir que de se sauver, ils fuyent avec leur bagage,

ils ne sont plus à craindre, la constance du courage ne sauroit être l'apanage de l'ignorance, elle n'en possède que l'élan. D'ailleurs, quelques forts élevés à l'entrée du désert et aux débouchés de la Syrie nous garantissent d'eux; et ensuite où peut se recruter ce ramas d'esclaves?

Les Arabes, Bédouins, et les habitants sont aujourd'hui nos seuls ennemis. Les premiers sont indestructibles; voleurs par profession et par institution reçue de race en race, il seroit plus difficile de les civiliser que de nous rendre sauvages. Les liens de la société leur seroient plus pénibles que les fatigues de cette vie affreuse, que l'habitude et l'ignorance les empêchent de trouver horrible. On ne peut que les éloigner et l'on y réussira en rendant le pays à la culture, et creusant des canaux larges et profonds, et bâtissant des fortins, de distance en distance. Quant aux habitants, quelques têtes de Cheïks les soumettront bientôt.

L'Egypte ne ressemble en rien à tout ce qu'en ont dit nos écrivains. Son sol est fécond mais point abondant; la nature ne demande qu'à produire, mais c'est un terrain nud et presque inculte. Ses habitants, dégradés par l'esclavage, sont retombés dans l'état de sauvages, et n'ont gardé de la civilisation que la superstition et l'intolérance religieuse. Je les ai trouvés parfaitement ressemblants aux nations de la mer du sud peintes par Cook et Forster.

En un mot ce pays-ci n'est rien quant au présent; il n'offre que de grands souvenirs et de vastes mais éloignées espérances. Il ne valoit pas la peine d'être conquis dans l'état actuel des choses; mais si des politiques, surtout des administrateurs habiles, s'en occupent dix ans; si dix ans nous y employons nos soins et

nous y sacrifions ses revenus, il deviendra la plus belle Colonie de l'Europe, et produira de grands changements dans le commerce du monde.

Où sont-ils ces administrateurs ? nous avons ici l'homme capable de donner au goût d'Egypte la première et grande impulsion, mais pas un capable d'administrer, quoiqu'en ait dit la bavarde déesse Oh combien de fausses réputations se sont faites en Italie, et que de piédestaux qui resteront sans statues ! d'ailleurs le Français dont l'impétuosité convenoit pour cette conquête, seroit-il assez patient pour attendre. Toujours pressé de recueillir, laissera-t-il mûrir dix ans, et comme le sauvage de Montesquieu, ne coupera-t-il pas l'arbre pour avoir le fruit ? les premières mesures me donnent le droit de le craindre.

Gurieux se porte à merveille à cette heure ; il n'a éprouvé d'autre maladie qu'une forte diarrhée ; on le surcharge d'ouvrage, et d'un ouvrage bien indigne de lui. On ne sait pas tirer parti de son talent, et l'on utilise son activité en la profanant. Il philosophe d'un bout du jour à l'autre que c'est ici le cas de mettre en pratique ce qu'il a lu jadis et pensé depuis !

J'ai jusqu'au bout de ma lettre différé de vous parler du malheureux Desna****. Il est pris par les Bedouins depuis plus d'un mois, et depuis cette époque on ignore ce qu'il est devenu ; ces voleurs ne l'auront pas tué, mais s'il a été présenté aux Mamelouks il est perdu ; sinon, et qu'il ait pu résister aux fatigues et aux mauvais traitements, nous l'aurons peut-être. Nous nous accrochons tous à ce brin d'espérance ; mais il est bien foible. La perte d'un camarade est ici bien sensible, mais surtout la sienne. Sa franchise, son cœur, et ses

sentiments m'avoient inspiré pour lui une amitié qu'il partageait. C'étoit le seul ami de mon âge que j'eusse ici. Je ne tiens plus maintenant qu'à Gurieux. La guerre a été bien funeste à l'état major ; il n'y avoit plus avant-hier que l'adjoint en état de faire le service, tout a été pris et tué, quatre ou cinq blessés. Jamais hussards ne firent un service pareil au nôtre, même lorsque leurs combats étoient en Gênes. Je me rapelle d'une vive partie de plaisir que nous fîmes cinq sur la plus haute montagne de Toulon ; des cinq je reste seul !

Le camarade qui se charge de vous remettre ou de vous faire parvenir ma lettre, est le citoyen Veyssiere chef-d'escadron au 18^e ; il a trente ans de service effectif, et sept campagnes. Il auroit, par conséquent, droit à une retraite, mais blessé ici et rongé par la pierre, il a voulu rentrer en France. On lui a sottement conseillé de donner sa démission, il l'a fait, elle a été acceptée. Ne seroit-il pas possible cependant de lui faire avoir ou sa retraite, ou une compagnie d'invalides ? je vous prie d'y employer tous vos efforts et votre crédit ; vous rendrez service à un des plus braves et des plus vaillants militaires de la République, qui sort, le cœur pur et les mains nettes, de la révolution et de la guerre.

Adieu ; je vous embrasse de tout mon cœur ; j'embrasse ma tante ; il me tarde bien fort de vous revoir l'un et l'autre : je voulois acheter des schals pour elle ; mais la caravanne a été détournée par les Beys et le peu qu'il restoit ici, ont été enlevés à un prix fou ; on les achetoit vingt-cinq à trente livres, et ils étoient assez communs. Je serai donc réduit à lui porter du café Mocka.

Adieu ; mes respects au citoyen et à la citoyenne
La Cépède, au Général Clarke, à Brostaut, au Général
Servan, &c. Rappelez-moi au souvenir de Davignon,
Desages, Decok, Charles Maroit, Marecheski, &c. &c.

LACUÉE.

TRANSLATION.

Cairo (27th Thermidor), August 14.

Adjutant-General LACUÉE, to his Uncle.

I HAVE received no letter from you, my dear uncle,* since I sailed from Toulon, and I am very much afraid that you have received none from me. I judge of your anxiety respecting me, by the benefits which you have heaped upon me ; you may judge of mine respecting you, by the gratitude they demand in return.

This letter, perhaps, will reach you. One of my comrades is about to embark in a neutral ship, and will

* This uncle of Lacuée is a very respectable man. He was, we believe, a member of the National Convention, and is at present in the Counsel of Elders. He was an officer under the Monarchy, and, during the legislative Assembly, President of the Military Committee. We know nothing of his nephew. It appears that he is a man of abilities ; and we recommend his letter, which is not only admirably written, but full of important matter, to the serious consideration of our readers.

take charge of it. Besides, the English, though victorious, are too much disabled to keep the sea,* and will for some time, I flatter myself, leave our communications open. With what ardour do we all wish it! for four months we have now been ignorant of what is become of our relations and friends. We left the Republic surrounded with factions, and all that has since reached us has been now and then a paltry gazette! every packet has been taken: a melancholy presage of our fate! that which brought Tallien † is the only one which has had the good fortune to escape.

* The fate of this letter is the best refutation of this assertion; which would not indeed been worth noticing, were it not for the opportunity it gives us of making a short remark on the ignorance in which the army were kept respecting the engagement of the first of August. That we had conquered could not well be denied, as the French fleet was annihilated: all that remained, therefore, for Bonaparte, was to represent the English fleet as nearly in the same state. This he did not fail to do; and this checked, for some days, the murmurs and despondency of the army. There is a letter from one of these deluded people, which, after mentioning their defeat, concludes with assuring his friend, upon the authority we have given, that the English ships were unable to stir,—“or,” says he, “*reste à savoir, &c.*” *Now it remains to be seen what can be done against them, by the vessels in the port of Alexandria, (the frigates and transports)—and the writer actually buoys himself up with hopes of capturing or destroying them!!!*

† The *Lodi*, which had nearly shared the fate of the rest. In the original it is,—“the packet was *respected*,” and just below we find that Lacuée’s tongue was “*respected*.” This is sad cant; but it is not altogether new, for we find a curious instance of its application in Vaillant. “A tiger, and myself,” says he, “met each other in the Desert. The noble creature surveyed me, while I gazed at him in my turn. We mutually *respected* each other, and passed on!

If the General's dispatches have reached France, you will see that I am wounded, * though to all appearance not very dangerously. The ball spared my tongue, throat, blood vessels, and left jaw : the — — † only was fractured, or rather shivered a good deal ; but, happily, not in such a manner as to disfigure me. The wound is healing fast. I can speak, and in another fortnight hope to be able to eat something besides broths : I should have said, able to eat at all ; for, in truth, during the last month, I have only been able to swallow. The surgeons say that the waters of Barege will be necessary, if not indispensable for me. I think myself that they will be proper, and feel a strong inclination to go there ; but as it is probable that the unfortunate action of Aboukir will render the situation of the army rather critical, and as there is an immediate prospect of my wound's cicatrizing, ‡ I will stay. My fate shall be linked to that of the army, although I serve with little, indeed very little, satisfaction to myself, and although I am perfectly sure that no one will feel obliged to me for the sacrifice.

The campaign which we have just finished, is indisputably the severest in which the French have ever been engaged. Our forced marches in the Desert, under a burning sky, and over still more burning sands, our want of water during five days, of bread during fifteen,

* Lacuée is not mentioned as far as we can see by Bonaparte ; but Berthier speaks of him as having been wounded at the same time with the first Commissary Sucy, in whose galley he was. " L'adjoin Lacuée a reçu une balle dans la machoire, &c."

† Probably right jaw ; but the word is obliterated.

‡ The original is illegible in this place ; but we have endeavoured to complete the sentence.

and of wine during three months ; our being continually under arms, exposed to a treacherous dew, which blinded all those who were not aware of it,—all this is infinitely more terrible than battles, and sieges. A little enthusiasm will do for these,—true courage alone for the other ; courage not only of the heart, but of the head and the soul.

We have had but two battles, and three or four skirmishes, or rather we have had but two butcheries : the Mameloucs had nothing but bravery ; we had discipline and experience. They rushed on to dash themselves in pieces against our squared batallions : their unreflecting valour precipitated them between two of these formidable masses, where they found their grave ! vanquished, and without any other chance of safety than flight, they retreated with all their baggage. They are no longer to be feared ; the constancy of courage can never be the portion of ignorance, * which has nothing but its enthusiasm ! Besides, a few forts erected at the entrance of the Desert, and the passes of Syria, will secure us from their attacks ; and then, where will this horde of slaves find recruits ?

The Bedouin Arabs, and the natives of the country, are at present our only enemies.† The former are

* Our philosopher reasons rather mal-à-propos. He has probably discovered long before this time, that his rhetorical flourish was a mere *petitio principii* : the *ignorance* of the Mameloucs still remains to be proved, but the *constancy of their courage* is no longer a question with the miserable remains of the French army.

† Lacuée seems to derive consolation from a circumstance, which would have thrown any other man into despair.

But mark the pretty plan of getting rid of those “ enemies,”

absolutely indestructible. Robbers by profession, and by institutions handed down from generation to generation, it would be more difficult to civilize them, than to barbarise ourselves! the bonds of society would be more grievous to them than fatigues, which custom and ignorance prevent them from finding disagreeable. All that can be done is to keep them at a distance; which can only be effected by cultivating the country, digging wide and deep canals, and erecting block-houses at short distances. With respect to the natives, the heads of a few Cheiks will speedily awe them into submission.

Egypt has not the slightest resemblance to what has been said of it by our writers. Its soil, indeed, is fruitful, but there is little of it. Nature asks only to produce; but the land is bare, and almost uncultivated. The natives, degraded by slavery, are relapsed into the savage state, retaining nothing of their former civilization but superstition and religious intolerance. I have found them resembling, in every circumstance, the islanders of the South Sea, described by Cook and Forster.

In a word, this country is nothing at present. It merely offers magnificent recollections of the past, and

who are *only* all the settled people of the country, and the surrounding Arabs, who are as invulnerable as the harpies,

——non vulnera tergo,

Accipiunt; celerique fuga, &c.

What they cannot do with the sword, however, they are determined to effect with the plough-share; and all the sands of Egypt are to be cultivated, that they may at length proceed with tranquillity in the great work of colonization. In the expressive figure of Solomon, "they will sow the wind, and reap the whirlwind!"

vast, but distant hopes of the future. It is not worth conquering in its present condition : but if statesmen, above all, if able administrators should undertake the management of it for ten years ;—if for the same space of time we should employ all our care on it, and sacrifice the whole of its revenues, it might become the most valuable colony of Europe, and effect an important change in the commerce of the world !

But where are they,—these able administrators ? we have, indeed, the man here capable of giving the first strong impulse to the taste of Egypt, * but not a soul equal to its administration,—whatever may be said to the contrary by the babbling Goddess. — — — Oh ! how many false reputations were acquired in Italy ! and how many pedestals will now rest without statues ! Besides ; are the French, whose impetuosity was well adapted to the conquest of this country,—are they, I say, endued with sufficient patience to wait for all this ? incessantly eager to pluck the fruit,—will they let it ripen for ten years ? and will they not, rather, like the savage of Montesquieu, cut down the tree to have it

* If Lacuée means Bonaparte here, he differs from us *toto cœlo*, in his estimate of the General's political talents. We think (and we judge from his Italian regulations) that Nature never formed a man less capable of giving what the writer calls " the first strong impulse to the taste of a nation,"—unless, indeed, it be the " taste " of pillage and desolation. But Lacuée, it may be urged, might have some other person in view ;—of this we can say nothing : we wish, however, to press this, and the following paragraphs, on the readers' most serious attention : referring them for what is said on the want of " able administrators, &c." to the Note, p. 76.

the sooner! the first measures which have been taken, give me every reason to fear it.

Gurieux is perfectly well at present; he has had no other complaint than a violent diarrhœa; he is overburdened with business, and, what is worse, with business totally unworthy of him. Our people do not know how to avail themselves of his peculiar talents, and therefore endeavour to turn his activity to account by profaning it. He philosophises from morn to night, and has ample opportunity of putting in practice what he formerly read, and has since reflected on.

I have postponed speaking of the unfortunate Desna —* to the end of my letter. He was taken prisoner by the Arabs more than a month ago, and we have not heard what is become of him since. These robbers

* This name is effaced by a blot. We made it out Desnattoz; but it is more probably Desnanotre, who is mentioned by Desgenettes, Part I. p. 102.

The French, to whom these letters are infinitely dear, and by whom they are anxiously and universally read, will perhaps thank us for this scrupulous attention to names, that have little in them to interest the curiosity of our countrymen. They will recognise those of their fathers, brothers, &c.; and they will inquire with avidity into their fate.

Now we are on the subject we will just mention, that in a former letter, we found one inclosed for a "Citizen Perrin, merchant at Sens," acquainting him with the death of his son, who, as the writer expresses it, *par le fatal arrêt du destin devoit perir sur le Nil*. This is probably the first intimation the unfortunate father will have of his loss. The letter also laments, in the most feeling manner, the general want of news from France, and adds, that the English have taken twelve of their advice-boats.

have certainly not killed him ; but if they have given him up to the Mameloucs, he is lost. Should this not happen to be the case, and he be able to endure fatigue and harsh treatment, we shall probably have him again. We all cling to this thread of hope, but it is very feeble ! the loss of a comrade is felt very sensibly here, especially of such a one as D——. His numerous good qualities had inspired me with a friendship for him, which, on his side, was warmly returned. He was the only friend of my own age, that I had in the army : Gurieux is now all that is left me.

This campaign has been very fatal to our staff. The day before yesterday the Adjutant General was the only one we had capable of going on duty,—all the rest are either killed, wounded, or taken. Never were hussars engaged in so severe a service ; no, not even in the first Italian campaign ! I call to mind a most agreeable party of pleasure, which five of us made, before we sailed for this country, on the highest mountain of Toulon. Of the five, I only remain !

The person who has engaged to deliver or send you this letter, is Citizen Veyssiere, captain of the 18th. He has served thirty years, and made seven campaigns. He would consequently have been intitled to retire on a pension, but wounded in this country, and tortured by the stone, he was eager to return to France. Some one has stupidly advised him to throw up his commission : he has done so, and it has been accepted.—Would it not be possible still, think you, to get him his pension, or a company of invalids ? I beseech you to employ all your efforts, and all your credit in his favour. You will render an essential service to one of the bravest officers of the

Republic, who retires with a pure heart and clean hands from the Revolution, and the war!

Adieu.—I embrace you, as well as my aunt, with all my heart. I can scarcely tell how much I long to see you both again.—I intended to have bought some shawls for my aunt,* but the caravan has been stopped by the Beys, and the few which are to be found here, have been raised to a most extravagant price. Five and twenty or thirty livres have been given for a very com-

* We see by this that the plunder of the caravan was counted upon, as a matter of certainty.

It is impossible to think, without indignation, of the coolness with which these people looked forward to the commission of the most atrocious acts, as things of course. They had wasted and destroyed the fairest part of Europe, and they triumphed in the impunity of their crimes.—But there was an EYE that marked them! they were abandoned to their presumption, and they rushed madly on destruction.

If there be a spectacle which sanctions a belief in the visible interposition of Providence, and “justifies the ways of God to man,” it is that of Bonaparte and his army. The man who boasted, and perhaps thought, that he held Fortune in chains; the legions, whose prowess and whose enormities struck Italy with terror, and confounded the powers of Germany, are now the sport of a weak and contemptible rabble,—of the Arabs, who are scarce numbered amongst civilized nations, and of the mob of Cairo, the most brutified, and savage in the universe! To become the slaves of these outcasts of humanity, to serve their brutal passions, and to minister food to their just vengeance,—to live despised, and abhorred; to die unknown, and have their carcasses flung to the dogs and vultures of the country, is now the only fate that awaits them! Who does not see in this humiliating catastrophe, the operation of retributive justice; and who that sees it, does not confess with the moral poet of antiquity,

Nec surdum, nec Tiresiam quenquam esse Deorum!

mon one.—I shall, therefore, be under the necessity of bringing her some Moka coffee instead of them.

Adieu ; my respects to Citizen Lacedèpe and his wife ; to General Clarke, Brostaut, Servan, &c. Remember me to Davignan, Desages, Decok, Charles Maroit, Marecheski, &c. &c.

LACUEE.

No. XVI.

*Grand Caire, le 28 Thermidor, an 6.**Au Citoyen MIOT.*

Tu verras, mon cher Miot, par la date de cette lettre, que je te l'écris vingt jours après celle qui est dans ce même paquet. Tu auras vu par le petit mot que je joignis avant mon départ de cette ville-ci, que je parlois pour aller avec le Général le Clerc, faire une expédition secrète, qui avoit, comme je l'ai su, pour but de nous emparer de la caravane de la Mecque, qu'Ibrahim Bey avoit saisie. Elle n'a pas réussi, et nous avons perdu dans cette affaire bien des hussards à cheval.

Tu reconnoitras facilement à ma vilaine écriture que quelque cause doit naturellement m'empêcher de conserver ma première manière. Je te dirai sans trop t'épouvanter, que cette expédition m'a été tant soit peu funeste, puisque j'ai eu le bras gauche tellement mordu et abimé par un chameau, qu'il est hors d'état d'être employé pendant un mois. Cet accident n'aura pas de suite. J'ai eu ensuite les doigts de la main droite endommagés de manière à ne pouvoir écrire. Il faut que tu saches aussi que j'ai perdu mes bagages, et que je suis resté avec une che nise sur le dos. Ma malle étoit heureusement arrivée au Grand Caire, et je puis rétablir mes pertes. Je supporte très-philosophiquement mes malheurs, qui ne sont d'ailleurs pas bien grands ; et le plus grand de tous est, et sera toujours, de ne pouvoir vous voir et vous serrer dans mes bras.

C'est à Sallich, au-delà de Bilbis, dernier village avant d'entrer dans le Désert, que nous avons appris la triste nouvelle de notre combat naval, dans lequel nous avons perdu plusieurs vaisseaux, entr'autres l'Orient, et l'Amiral Brueys mort d'un boulet de canon. Tu dois bien croire combien cet événement rend notre situation embarrassante dans ce pays ; et elle enleveroit l'espérance à toute l'armée, si on ne connoissoit pas le génie du Général en Chef qui la dirige. C'est donc entièrement sur lui que nous nous reposons du soin de nous tirer du pas dans lequel nous nous sommes engagés. Puisse le parti qu'il prendra nous rapprocher de notre patrie ! Ce pays n'est pas fait pour nous.

Adieu, mon cher Miot, je t'embrasse de tout mon cœur, ainsi que toute ta charmante famille, et la bonne M——.

Boyat, qui est auprès de moi dans le moment, me prie de t'assurer de son attachement. Il dit bien de choses à Josephine, et à M——. Si tu peux me faire revenir n'oublies pas d'en saisir l'occasion. N'oublies pas aussitôt que tu auras reçu cette lettre, d'écrire un mot à Sucy pour l'engager à me ramener avec lui, en cas où il partiroit d'ici.

D'après ce que Boyat m'a dit, il n'y paroissoit pas disposé. Adieu.

TRANSLATION.

Grand Cairo (28 Thermidor), August 15.

To Citizen MIOT.

YOU will see, my dear Miot, by the date of this letter, that it is written twenty days after that which you will find in the same packet.* You will see too, by the conclusion of the former, that I was then on the point of setting out with General Le Clerc,† on a secret expedition, the object of which, as I afterwards learned, was to seize on the caravan of Mecca, of which Ibrahim Bey had possessed himself. This expedition has totally failed, and we are returned with the loss of a number of our new mounted hussars.

You will easily discover from this wretched scrawl of a letter, that something has happened to prevent my writing as usual. I will briefly tell you (to save unnecessary alarm), that this expedition has been a little,

* He alludes to his Letter of July 26th. See No. IV.

† General Le Clerc (as we should have observed in a former letter) is much in the confidence of the Commander in Chief, to whom he is related. He married, we believe, immediately after the negotiations of Leoben, a sister of Bonaparte's, in Italy, extremely pretty, and nick-named for her silliness, La Princesse Folette. Her brother made her a present of 500,000 livres, on her wedding day! This is the lady whom Bonaparte prevented from seeing the opera at Bologna, because the company she had chosen to attend her were not *all* of the first consequence! It must be confessed, that this equalizing Chief has most aristocratical ideas of rank and fortune; ideas which, in a Corsican, and a republican, are altogether surprising.

and but a little, unfortunate for me ; since I have had my left arm so torn and bruised, by a camel, that I shall not be able to use it for a month : there is, however no danger. By a second accident, I had two of my right-hand fingers so much injured, as to be scarce able to hold a pen.

I lost, besides, every thing I took with me, except the shirt upon my back. Luckily my portmanteau had reached Cairo, so that I shall not be in want of necessities. I support my misfortunes, which after all, are not of the most important nature, in a very philosophical style ; the greatest of them all, however is, and always will be, the not having it in my power to see you, and press you to my heart.

It was at Sallich, just beyond Bilbis, the last village before you come to the Desert, that we first heard the melancholy news of our naval action, in which we lost a great number of vessels, and amongst the rest the l'Orient ; and had Admiral Brueys killed by a cannon shot. You may easily conceive how embarrassing this event must render our situation in this country. It would deprive the army of every hope, if they were not acquainted with the genius of the Commander in Chief. It is entirely on him then, that we rely for the care of extricating us from the perilous step in which we are engaged. May the measures he may take, bring us nearer to our country ! EGYPT IS NOT MADE FOR US.

Adieu, my dear Miot ; I embrace you with all my heart, as well as all your charming family, and the dear M——.

Boyat, who is now sitting by me, begs me to assure

you of his attachment. He sends his respects to Josephine and to M——.

If you desire me to return, let slip no opportunity; and above all, do not forget, the instant you receive this letter, to write a word to Sucy, to induce him to take me with him, in case he has any thoughts of quitting this country.

By what I can collect from Boyat's conversation, he does not seem disposed to do it at present.*

Adieu.

* Our unfortunate Savant has already observed (No. IV.) Sucy's reluctance to take him with him to France. Sucy himself, we believe, will never revisit that country; but if it were otherwise, if the poor man's letters had reached his friend Miot in time, and if Miot had employed all his interest with the First Commissary in his behalf, we are persuaded that all would have been ineffectual. A botanist, and a man of sense! What pretensions has he to be one of the chosen few who are to be permitted to return? No, no, his fate was sealed previous to his embarkation. For the rest, we do not know that he has any particular reason to complain; he has already seen, he says, many of his associates fall around him (see his former letter), and he is still in existence: nor can he justly blame the Directory; for if they could deliberately consign to inevitable destruction more than forty thousand of their best and bravest troops, to whom they were under the highest obligation, why should they be supposed to interest themselves in the fate of this whining compound of philosophy and war, who has never yet, perhaps, rendered them the slightest service! The idea is too absurd to be dwelt upon.

When we observed above that we *believed* Sucy would never revisit France, we were certainly very far from thinking that this was already a matter of certainty. We have learned, since the former part of this note was written, that he was on board the

vessel which ran into Candia, where he was put to death, together with most of the passengers, by the inhabitants.

We are no advocates for a war of this savage nature ; and the resentment with which we speak of the army of the East, or of England, proceeds from observing, that they are the butchers, not the bold and generous enemies, of the devoted Egyptians. With all this, however, we wish Sucy had fallen in some other manner ; though we cannot help being astonished at the presumptuous folly that could lead him to throw himself and his companions into the hands of a people whom they had so grossly injured. The impunity with which the French have long insulted and trampled on the poor patient nations of Europe, has emboldened them to their destruction : they have at length found an enemy worthy of themselves !

We know not whether the writer of this letter obtained his wish to be permitted to accompany Sucy in his flight. If he did, he doubtless shared his fate ; it is more probable, however, that he did not ; and in that case, if a short respite (for it will be no more) has its value with him,

————— si tanti vita dierum

Paucorum ———

we may venture to congratulate him on the obduracy of the First Commissary.

No. XVII.

Au Caire, le 29 Thermidor, an 6.

*Au Citoyen PISTRE, demeurant au Bureau du Naulage,
Quai Vincent, No. 199, à Lyon.*

JE saisis avec empressement, mon cher ami, l'occasion que me procure un de nos chefs d'escadron qui se retire par démission, pour te faire parvenir cette lettre, dans l'espoir qu'elle sera plus heureuse que celle que je t'ai écrite d'Alexandrie ; la frégate qui en étoit porteur ayant, dit-on, été prise par les Anglais. Tu as sans doute appris, qu'après une navigation assez heureuse, nous nous étions emparés de l'Isle de Malthe, et que de là nous avions fait voile pour l'Egypte. Nous sommes en effet arrivés devant Alexandrie le 14 Thermidor, et nous nous en sommes également emparés après une légère résistance.

Je ne saurois t'exprimer, mon cher ami, l'étonnement que j'ai éprouvé en entrant dans cette ville, jadis si célèbre, dont il ne reste pas la moindre splendeur, et où on ne trouve plus que les vestiges de quelques anciens monuments, tels que la Colonne de Pompée, les Bains de Cléopatre, &c. L'Alexandrie moderne n'est plus qu'un amas de baraques de terre, formant des petites rues fort étroites, d'une mal-propreté au-dessus de tout ce qu'on peut imaginer ; ce qui, joint à la chaleur exces-

sive de ce climat, fait qu'on y respire un très-mauvais air, qui y amène chaque année la peste.

A-peine commençoit-elle à cesser ses ravages, lorsque nous avons abordé ; plusieurs bâtimens en étoient encore infestés dans le port, et j'ai encore vu porter en terre des êtres vivants qui en étoient attaqués. Je t'avoue que ce spectacle, joint à l'air stupide et farouche des habitants du pays, m'a navré le cœur. Je me suis demandé à moi-même comment le gouvernement François avoit fait tant d'efforts, et exposé une armée de quarante mille hommes, pour venir soumettre un peuple si féroce et si abruti.

Tel est, mon cher ami, la question que je me suis faite en mettant le pied sur ce sol brûlant, qui ne présente de toutes parts que des déserts immenses, entièrement dépourvus d'eau, dans l'espace de quatorze lieues que nous avons traversées en partant d'Alexandrie.

Après cette cruelle traversée, où les troupes ont beaucoup souffert de la chaleur et de la soif, nous nous sommes approchés du Nil, dont les rives sont un peu plus fécondes, mais toujours habitées par un peuple également farouche. Pendant nos trois premières journées de marche, nous avons continuellement été suivis par des Arabes, ou des Bédouins, qui sont des brigands à cheval, accoutumés à vivre de pillage, et qui égorgeoient ceux qui, épuisés de soif et de fatigues, ne pouvoient suivre la colonne.

Nous avons enfin rencontré les Mamelouks, qui sont des troupes que les Beys, au nombre de vingt-quatre qui gouvernent l'Egypte sous leur domination, tirent de Circassie et de la Georgie, et tiennent à leur solde. Ces troupes sont toutes montées sur d'excellents chevaux Arabes ; elles ont voulu nous charger, mais le feu de la

mousqueterie et du canon les a bientôt dispersés, et fait retirer jusque sous les murs de Caire, où nous sommes entrés le 3 Thermidor, après avoir complètement battu l'ennemi.

Je croyois qu'en arrivant dans cette ville, si célèbre par son commerce avec l'Inde, nous y trouverions de tout en abondance, et un peuple plus civilisé, mais mon attente a été trompée, et, à l'exception des Européens qui y sont établis, le peuple y est aussi barbare et aussi ignorant qu'à Alexandrie.

D'après le léger apperçu que je te donne de l'Egypte, tu peux croire que l'armée n'est point contente de cette expédition dans un pays dont les mœurs, la nourriture, et la chaleur, ne s'accroissent nullement avec notre manière de vivre en Europe. La majeure partie de l'armée est attaquée de la dysenterie, et quoique victorieuse, finira par y périr misérablement, si notre gouvernement persiste dans ses projets ambitieux. Beaucoup d'officiers donnent leur démission, et je t'avoue que je la donnerois également si j'avois espoir de trouver quelque emploi en France ; mais dénué de ressources, il faut prendre patience, et attendre que les événemens apportent quelque changement dans la position critique où nous nous trouvons.

Nous ne savons si notre séjour sera long dans ces nouvelles contrées, et si nous porterons plus loin nos conquêtes ; mais il paroît qu'on est disposé à garder le pays, car on y a déjà organisé des municipalités. Une partie de l'armée est à la poursuite des Mamelouks, et je crois qu'on fera tous les efforts imaginables pour les atteindre avant qu'ils se soient retirés dans la Syrie, puisqu'ils se sont emparés de la caravane des Indes, qu'ils emmènent avec eux, et qui est un objet très-précieux.

Adieu, cher ami, donne moi de tes nouvelles, dont je n'ai point reçu depuis celles que je reçus à Gênes. Bien des complimens à toute notre famille, et crois moi,

Ton sincere ami.

PISTRE.

TRANSLATION.

Cairo (29 Thermidor), August 16.

To Citizen PISTRE, at the Bureau du Naulage, Vincent's Key, No. 199, Lyons.

I EAGERLY avail myself, my dear friend, of the opportunity afforded me by one of our officers,* who has thrown up his commission and got leave to retire, to write you this letter, in the hope that it will be more fortunate than that which I wrote you from Alexandria; the frigate by which it was sent having been taken by the English.

You have heard, without doubt, that after a very prosperous navigation we took possession of Malta, from whence we again set sail for Egypt. We arrived

* Citizen Veyssiere, mentioned by Lacuée.—See his letter to his uncle.

before Alexandria on the 2d of July,* of which we also took possession, after a slight resistance.

I want words, my dear friend, to express the astonishment I felt on entering this city, once so famous, but which does not now retain the slightest vestige of splendor, if we except a few scattered fragments of its ancient buildings, such as the Column of Pompey, the Baths of Cleopatra, &c. Modern Alexandria is nothing more than a mass of mud barracks, forming a number of little narrow lanes, of which the filthiness is beyond imagination, and which, together with the excessive heat of the climate, engenders a kind of stagnant and putrifying air, annually productive of the plague.

It had not intirely ceased its ravages when we arrived: many of the ships in the harbour were still infected, and I myself saw several poor wretches, who were ill of it, carried on shore! I will freely confess to you, that this spectacle, joined to the stupid and ferocious air of the inhabitants, cut me to the heart; and I said to myself, "HOW COULD THE GOVERNMENT OF FRANCE MAKE SUCH EXTRAORDINARY EFFORTS, AND EXPOSE AN ARMY OF FORTY THOUSAND MEN

* In the original it is le 14 Thermidor, (the 1st of August.) The French, as we have had frequent occasions to observe in the course of this work, are very far from being perfect in their new-fangled calendar. Their Fructidors, and their Messidors, their rain months, and their snow months, are strangely out of their places in Egypt. A circumstance which has, probably, corrected by this time, the ideas of some of their vagabond *Savans*, who were, doubtless, in amazement at first, at the waywardness of nature, in not reducing all climates to the climate of the *Great Nation*; and still more, at her presumption in venturing to deviate from the calendar of a Directory and two Councils!

TO DESTRUCTION, FOR THE SAKE OF SUBDUING A SET OF FIERCE AND BRUTIFIED SAVAGES."

Such, my dear friend, was the question I put to myself on first setting foot on this burning soil; which presents nothing to the eye but immense deserts, utterly destitute of water; and one of which, extending more than forty miles in breadth, we crossed in our first march from Alexandria.

After this dreadful march, during which the troops suffered prodigiously from heat and thirst, we reached the Nile, whose banks are a little more fertile, but whose inhabitants are not a whit less ferocious than the Alexandrines. During the three first days of our march, we were continually harrassed by the Bedouin Arabs, a sort of banditti on horseback, accustomed to live on plunder; and who cut the throats of all those who, exhausted by thirst and fatigue, could not keep up with the main body.

At length we fell in with the Mameloucs: these are troops which the Beys, who, to the number of twenty-four, * govern Egypt, draw from Georgia and Circassia,

* This again is taken from Savary (for we never get out of his track), and, though repeated with the utmost confidence in many of these letters, not a jot more correct than the rest of his reveries.

The government of Egypt, says Niebuhr, (who in one page has conveyed more real information on the subject, than is to be found in some extensive volumes), is vested in a Bashaw, representative of the Grand Signior; sometimes, indeed, neglected, but whom the invasion of the French will certainly restore to all his influence, and in eighteen Beys—for to this number they have now been reduced for many years. These Beys are not, as is commonly supposed, all of Christian origin, purchased in their childhood, and brought as slaves to Grand Cairo; so long since

and keep in their pay. These people are all mounted on excellent horses: they shewed a disposition to charge us, but the fire of the musquetry and cannon soon com-

as 1762 (many years before Savary was in Egypt), five of them were already of Mahometan families; and as the importation of slaves from Mingrelia and Georgia has been constantly diminishing, it is very probable that the greater number of the present Beys are of the same description.

It has been also thought, that the military strength of Egypt consists merely of 8000 Mameloucs: this too is a mistake. Travellers may have been led into it, because the troops are not assembled, exercised, and uniformly cloathed, after the European manner; but every Bey has his particular troops, which consist principally of his vassals: some of them have as many as 2000; dispersed, indeed, about the country, but capable of being collected at the first signal. There are besides many regiments (such as those of *Assab*, *Motasarraha*, *Tsjumlan*, *Tessekschan*, &c.) maintained by the State. The number of Janissaries too, in the pay of the Porte, is considerable; and as most of the officers have possessions in the country, they are all exceedingly attached to the government. If to all these are added the hordes of Bedouins, whose assistance may be easily purchased against a foreign enemy, we shall find that Bonaparte will have to contend not only with more troops, but with far more formidable ones, than he had probably reckoned on.

We could enlarge with pleasure on the observations of this well-informed traveller—but we forbear, as this note is already long, and as we have a point to settle with the French Reviewers of this Correspondence.

In the First Part, we took the liberty of expressing our surprize at the general ignorance of the “Army of England;” or, “of the East,” respecting Egypt. This appears to have given great offence.—How, say the writers of the *Decade Philosophique, Littéraire* and *Politique*, “how” (we omit their passionate preamble), “can people who have never been in a distant country, know any thing of it but from the accounts of travellers?” This, as a general remark, may be very well; but unfortunately

pelled them to retire under the walls of Cairo; which we entered on the 21st of July, after having completely routed them.

I had flattered myself that on our arrival at this city, so famous for its commerce with India, we should find every thing in abundance, and a more civilized people than we had hitherto met with; but I have been cruelly disappointed. With the exception of the Europeans who are settled here, the inhabitants are as barbarous and as ignorant as those of Alexandria.

From the slight sketch which I have given you of Egypt, you may easily conceive that the army is by no means pleased with this expedition, to a country of which the usages, diet, and excessive heat, are totally repugnant to our manner of living in Europe. The major part of the army is labouring under a diarrhoea; and **ALTHOUGH VICTORIOUS, WILL TERMINATE ITS CAREER BY PERISHING MISERABLY, IF OUR**

it has nothing to do with the point in dispute. Our surprize was occasioned, as the critics must have seen, by observing, that in a case where it imported them so greatly to collect the best information, not a man in the army, nor in the long train of *Savans* which followed it, should, as far as appears, have extended his inquiries beyond the jejune pages of Volney and Savary,—when, besides the earlier and fuller works of their own countrymen, the judicious histories of Sandys, Shaw, Pocock, Norden, Niebuhr (himself an host), and a number of others, lay, as it were, immediately under their hands!

Enough for the present.—If we return to the *Decade Philosophique*, which is not improbable, we shall have ample opportunities of shewing, with what contempt of truth its conductors treat the “enlightened people of France,” and with what a daring disregard of reputation they wilfully misrepresent the most obvious facts.

GOVERNMENT PERSISTS IN ITS AMBITIOUS PROJECTS. Many officers are throwing up their commissions; and I freely confess to you, that I would also throw up mine, if I had the least prospect of obtaining any thing in France; but, deprived as I am of every resource, I must persevere, and patiently wait to see what change events may bring about in our present critical situation.

We do not know whether we shall stay in these new regions, or carry our conquests farther. To judge from appearances, this country will be kept; for our people are already engaged in organizing some municipalities. A part of the army is in pursuit of the Mameloucs. I imagine every possible effort will be made to come up with them before they effect their retreat into Syria; BECAUSE they have got possession of the caravan from India, which they are carrying with them, and which is an object of the utmost importance and value.

Adieu, my friend. Let me hear from you, which I have not done since I left Genoa. I beg my compliments to all our family, and remain,

Your's, most sincerely,

PISTRE.*

* We do not know Pistre's rank in the army. He writes extremely well, and his letter is one of the most interesting in the whole collection.

No. XVIII.

*Au Caire, Capitale de l'Egypte, partie d'Afrique,
le 29 Thermidor.*

DUMAS, Brigadier de la Compagnie No. 1. à la Citoyenne
DUMAS.

Chère Mère,

JE vous écris la présente pour vous informer de l'état de ma situation, qui n'est pas des meilleures. Nous sommes dans un pays extrêmement chaud, où on ne trouve point de vin, pas même du pain, si nous n'eussions construit des fours, excepté des mauvaises galettes que nous ne pouvons manger et dont se nourrissent les habitans du pays.

Je vous dirai que dans ce pays, il-y-a dixsept ans qu'il n'y a pas tombé d'eau. L'Egypte serait inhabitable si ce n'était le Nil qui est le nom du fleuve qui déborde tous les ans, et arrose tout ce vaste pays. La peste y est très-commune ; le peuple y est barbare ; leur dieu est Mahomet, ils n'en connoissent pas d'autres. Dans cette ville il y a soixante mille Chrétiens, et le nombre de ses habitans monté à un million qui sont très-tranquilles, et qui aiment assez les François.

Nous avons marché cinq jours sans trouver l'ennemi. Lorsque nous eumes joint le Nil, nous trouvames une

flotille armée, qui s'était détachée de notre escadre, dont une grande partie de la cavalerie à pied s'est embarquée dont j'en étois du nombre ; c'étoit le 24 Messidor, que nous embarquâmes. Le Général Bonaparte, donna ordre au commandant de la flotille de prendre l'avance sur l'armée, ce que nous fîmes.

Le 25 Messidor à cinq heures du matin, nous aperçûmes les ennemis au nombre de dix milles, tous à cheval qui côtoyoient le Nil, et avoient cinq chaloupes canonnières qui le suivoient pas-à-pas : à six heures le combat s'engagea. Après quatre heures de combat, les cinq chaloupes, qui avoient fait un feu terrible sur nous vinrent à l'abordage nous fûmes obligés d'abandonner nos chaloupes, et nous sauver du côté où l'ennemi avoit le moins des forces : une demi-heure après notre armée nous joignit, et chassa l'ennemi ; nous reprîmes nos chaloupes, et la victoire fut à nous.

De là nous allâmes près du Caire, où nous avons eu une bataille très-sanglante, dans laquelle les Mamelouks ont perdu trois mille hommes, et nous n'avons pas perdu cinquante hommes, ce qu'il ne vous sera pas aisé à croire. Autre chose de nouveau, nous sommes maîtres de toute la basse Egypte. On prétend que sous peu de jours nous retournerons en France.

Adieu, chère mère, grande mère, sœurs et beaux frères ; je finis en vous embrassant tous du profond de mon cœur.

DUMAS.

TRANSLATION.

*Cairo, the Capital of Egypt, in Africa,
(29 Thermidor), August 16th.*

DUMAS, *Brigadier of the Company No. 1, to the female
Citizen DUMAS.*

Dear Mother,

THIS comes to inform you of the state of my situation,* which is far from being of the best.—We are in a country extremely hot, where we find no wine, and what is more, no bread (if we had not built ovens

* We should apologize for troubling the reader with the correspondence of Brigadier Dumas, were it not that his letter, absurd as it is in other respects, gives the fullest account of the defeat of the French flotilla on the Nile, which has yet come to our hands. There is no doubt of the fact, for Dumas could have no temptation, even though he might have the ability (which, poor man! was far from being the case), to describe a defeat that never happened; and, besides, as we have already remarked, it is the only possible way of accounting for the loss of the officers' baggage.

There is yet another circumstance in this letter worth mentioning; and that is, the report spread in the army of a speedy return to France. Since it had reached Dumas it must have been very general, for we do not give him credit for much active inquiry; and, in this case, it strikes us as a matter of singular importance.

Unlike Italy in every respect, Egypt presented no temptations to the cupidity and licentiousness of the troops, and the idea of a longer residence in it was therefore become intolerable to them. To allay this impatience, the General seems to have thrown out

for ourselves), except a wretched kind of flat cake, which we cannot eat ; and on which the natives of the country subsist.

I must inform you, that it is full seventeen years since any rain fell in this country. Egypt would be quite uninhabitable, if it were not for the Nile, which is the name of the river that overflows annually, and waters all this immense country. The plague is very common here ; the people are barbarians : their God is Mahomet—they know no others!!! In this city there are sixty thousand Christians : the whole of its inhabitants are reckoned at a million ; they are very tranquil, and appear mighty fond of the French.

We marched five days without meeting the enemy. When we reached the Nile, we found an armed flotilla which had been detached from our squadron ; and on which a great number of dismounted cavalry (of which I was one), immediately embarked : this was on the 12th of July. General Bonaparte ordered the commander to move forward, so as to precede the army ; which we did.

The 13th, at five in the morning, we perceived the enemy, to the number of ten thousand, all mounted ; marching along the left bank of the Nile, and supported by five gun-boats, which followed their movements. At six the action began. After a contest of four hours, the five gun-boats, which had kept up a terrible fire on

a hope of their leaving the country ;—an expedient which, with all due deference to his judgment, we conceive to be as dangerous as it was wicked : for as it neither could, nor was ever meant to be realized, it must, in the event, have exasperated the feeling it was intended to remove.

our flotilla, boarded us. We were obliged to abandon our vessels, and flee to that part of the bank where the enemy had the fewest troops. About half an hour after, our land forces came up, and drove them back. We then recovered our vessels, and victory declared in our favour!!!

From thence we marched to the neighbourhood of Cairo, where we had a very bloody battle, in which the Mameloucs lost three thousand men, and we did not lose fifty—a thing which it will be rather difficult for you to believe! Another extraordinary circumstance! we are masters of all Lower Egypt. IT IS STRONGLY REPORTED THAT WE SHALL RETURN TO FRANCE IN A FEW DAYS.

Adieu, dear mother, grandmother, sisters, and brother-in-law. I conclude with embracing you all with the utmost tenderness.

DUMAS.

To this letter is subjoined a short note to a Mons. Sarrauson, whom Dumas terms his honoured *Concitoyen*. The note itself is nothing; but it concludes with a trait of minute politeness well worth preserving. Dumas had begun on what we should call the wrong side of the paper, and—but take it in his own words, “Excusez, si j’ai mal tourné la feuille, un peu de distraction en est la cause!”

No. XIX.

Au Caire, le 30 Thermidor, an 6.

DEZIRAD, *Maréchal de Logis au 18^e Regiment de Dragons, à la Citoyenne ADELINÉ; à Marseille.*

Ma chère Amie,

Je profite de la commodité du Citoyen Veyssière, Chef d'Escadron de notre régiment, qui part aujourd'hui pour France, pour te donner de mes nouvelles, et en même tems pour te renouveler de nouveau le serment, que je t'ai si souvent fait de t'aimer jusqu' à la mort. Oui, je te le repète encore, et il n'y a pas un moment depuis notre malheureuse séparation, que tu ne sois présente à mes yeux, et que je n'accable de baisers ton cher portrait. Oui, chère Adeline, si tu m'aime comme tu me l'as toujours témoignée, je te jure que nous finirons ensemble nos jours. Hélas ! quand arrivera-t-il, l'heureux moment d'une réunion si désirée ?

Depuis que nous sommes en Égypte, l'armée ne cesse de souffrir. Les grandes fatigues que nous avons éprouvées dans le Désert, la grande chaleur du soleil qui faisoit sortir le feu de la terre, dépourvus absolument de vivres, obligés de marcher continuellement, tout cela est cause qu'il est mort beaucoup de volontaires qui toiboient de foiblesse roides sur la poussière.

Nous avons eu plusieurs fortes batailles avec les Mamelouks, qui ont toujours été battus. Je te dirai qu' à la dernière affaire j'ai eu mon cheval blessé.

Je te prie de dire mille choses honnêtes à Doux. Dis-lui qu'il n'ait jamais la foiblesse de s'embarquer pur venir dans ce maudit pays. Tu lui diras que j'envie beaucoup son sort.

Je finis, ma douce amie, en t'embrassant mille fois, et crois moi pour la vie,

Ton fidel ami.

DEZIRAD.

TRANSLATION.

Cairo, August 17th.

DEZIRAD, *Quarter Master to the 18th Regiment of Dragoons, to the female Citizen ADELINE, at Marseilles.*

My dear Love,

I AVAIL myself of the departure of Citizen Veyssiere, Commodore, of our regiment, who quits us this morning for France, to send you a letter, and at the same time to renew the vow which I have so often made, of loving you to the last moment of my life. Yes, I repeat it once more—there has not been an instant since our unhappy separation, that you have not been present

to my view, and that I have not covered your dear portrait with kisses. Yes, Adeline! if you love me, as you have always sworn you did, we will finish our days together. Alas! when will the happy moment arrive of a reunion so desired?

Since we have been in Egypt we have done nothing but suffer. The immense fatigues which we experienced in the Desert, the prodigious heat of the sun, which sets the very ground on fire, the absolute want of food, and the necessity of continual marching, have carried off a vast number of volunteers, who dropt down dead at our feet from mere exhaustion.

We have had several severe contests with the Mameloucs; whom we have always defeated. In our last affair, I had my horse wounded.

Say a thousand things for me to Doux: tell him never to have the weakness to take shipping for this infernal country; and add, that I envy his good fortune exceedingly.

I conclude, my love, with embracing you a thousand times. Believe me,

Ever faithfully your's.

DEZIRAD.

No. XX.

Au Caire, le 1^{er} Fructidor, an 6.

C. FABREGUE, au Citoyen Fabregue, Aide-Commissaire,
à bord de la Frégate la Mantoue, à Alexandrie.

Je saisis l'occasion qui se présente pour te donner, mon cher frère, de mes nouvelles. J'aurois cru en recevoir des tiennes depuis long tems, mais j'en ai attendu vainement jusqu' à ce jour. Je souhaite que ta santé soit dans un parfait état ; jusqu'à présent je ne puis me plaindre de la mienne, malgré les privations de toute espèce et les fatigues continuelles que nous éprouvons dans le Nil, où nous sommes malgré cela obligés de nous battre contre les Bédouins et les Arabes des rives du Nil, que nous sommes dans le cas de parcourir avec nos avisos. Je ne me serais jamais attendu à faire une navigation aussi pénible avec nos petits bâtimens ; quelque idée qu'on s'en fasse on n'approchera jamais de la vérité ; mais puisque nous ne pouvons rien changer à notre destination, je dis Vogue la galère, et je nage.

Je viens d'écrire à mon épouse ; j'espère que tu ne négligeras pas d'en faire autant, pour la rassurer sur ce qu'elle pourroit craindre de la suite du combat de notre escadre, lorsque cette nouvelle sera parvenue à Toulon.

PART II.

M

Vous êtes, sans doute, mieux à même de savoir les détails de cette affaire, et puisqu'il y a une poste établie d'Alexandrie au Caire, je te prie, en me donnant de tes nouvelles, de nous instruire, l'ami Fouque ou moi, de ce qu'il en a été, et de notre position actuelle.

Les Mamelouks ont absolument fui loin de leur domaine ; ils sont partie dans les Déserts et partie dans le Sahir, et ne peuvent pas, je crois, retourner sur leurs pas de sitôt. Nous avons cependant à réduire encore les Arabes Bédouins qui, se joignant aux habitants des villages du Nil, nous obligent, de tems en tems à nous battre ; mais l'avantage est toujours pour nous, et nous serons, autant qu'il sera possible, tranquilles sur leur révolte, par les mesures que l'on va employer contre eux.

L'ami Fouque et moi te prions de dire bien des choses aux amis Ferrat, Morel, St. André, &c. de votre bord.

Je finis par t'engager à me donner plus souvent de tes nouvelles, et de te rappeler que nous sommes ici comme en exil, pour nos pêchés sans doute ; mais patience ; — lorsqu'ils seront expiés, nous irons en Paradis, et ce lieu pour moi n'est autre que ma bastide de Toulon, ma femme, mes enfans, et toi que j'aimerai toujours. Adieu ; je t'embrasse et suis pour la vie,

Ton tendre frère,

C. FABREGUE.

TRANSLATION.

Cairo (1st Fructidor), August 18th.

*To Citizen FABREGUE, Extra-Commissary, on board the
Frigate la Mantoue, at Alexandria.*

EMBRACE, my dear brother, the present opportunity of writing to you. I have been in expectation of hearing from you a long time, but have been hitherto disappointed. I hope your health continues good; I have yet had no reason to complain of mine, notwithstanding the privations of every kind, and the continual fatigues which we experience on the Nile, where we are obliged, in spite of our exhausted condition, to contend with the Bedouins and Arabs along the banks of the river, as often as we have occasion to pass up or down in our advice-boats.

I never expected to engage in so toilsome and dangerous a navigation, with such vessels as ours. Whatever ideas you may form of it, you will never approach the reality;—but as reflection will not change my destiny, I can only say, *Vogue la galère, et je nage*,—Push forward! luck is every thing.

I have just written to my wife; I hope you will not forget to do the same, to remove her apprehensions respecting the consequences of the defeat of our fleet, when the news reaches Toulon.

You are, doubtless, more likely than we are to be

acquainted with the particulars of that affair: and since there is now a regular post established * between Alexandria and Cairo, I beg that, when you write next to our friend Fouque, or me, you will inform us how it actually was, and what is the true nature of our present situation.

The Mameloucs have absolutely fled far from their domains:—they are partly in the Deserts, and partly in the Said; and will not, I imagine, be in any great hurry to return. We have still, however, to reduce the Bedouin Arabs, who join themselves to the people of the country, and compel us from time to time to come to action. The advantage, it must be confessed, is always on our side; and the measures we are now taking will secure us, as far as it is possible, from their revolt.

Fouque and I beg you to remember us to our friends, Ferret, Morel, St. Andrée, &c. on board your vessel.

I conclude, by intreating you to write to me more fre-

* Fabregue's notion of the *establishment* of a "regular post," is rather singular. It appears from his own letter, that the advice-boats were constantly attacked by the natives in their passage to Rosetta; and we know, from equally good authority, that from thence to Alexandria, they are exposed to still greater dangers,—to the bore at the mouth of the Nile, and to our cruizers, which it is almost impossible they should escape. Of this, amongst a thousand instances, the fate of the letter before us is a convincing proof.

The request to be informed of the real state of the action of the 1st of August, is natural enough; for it appears from Bonaparte's address to the army, which has been given in all our papers, that though he did not expressly say that the English had gained the day, he insinuated pretty broadly that the French had not lost it.

quently than you have hitherto done; and to call to mind, that we are here, as it were, in exile,—for our sins undoubtedly. But patience! when they are expiated, we shall enter into Paradise; and Paradise, for me, is neither more nor less than my country house* at Toulon, my wife, my children, and yourself, whom I shall always love.

Adieu; I embrace you, and am ever your affectionate brother,

-C. FABREGUE.

* *Bastide* in the original; which is the name given to those little seats which abound so much in the south of France, particularly in the neighbourhood of Marseilles, Toulon, &c.

No. XXI.

*Au Quartier Général du Caire,
le 1^e Fructidor, an 6.*

BONAPARTE, *Général en Chef*, au *Contre-amiral VILLENEUVE*, à bord du *Guillaume Tell*, à *Malte*.

J'AI reçu, Citoyen Général, la lettre que vous m'avez écrite en mer à dix lieues du cap de Celidonia. Si l'on pouvoit vous faire reproche, ce seroit de ne pas avoir mis à la voile immédiatement après que l'Orient eût sauté, puisque depuis trois heures la position que l'Amiral avoit prise, avoit été forcée et entourée de tous côtés par l'ennemi.

Vous avez rendu dans cette circonstance, comme dans tant d'autres, un service essentiel à la République, en sauvant une partie de l'escadre. Les Contre-amiraux Gantheaume, Ducheyla sont à Alexandrie, ainsi que tous les matelots, canoniers, soldats de l'escadre, soit blessés soit bien portant, tous les prisonniers ayant été rendus.

Les deux vaisseaux le Causse, et le Dubois, sont armés ainsi que les frégates la Junon, l'Alceste, la Minion, la Carrere, et les autres frégates Venitiennes. Vous trouverez à Malte deux vaisseaux et une frégate. Vous y attendrez l'arrivée des trois vaisseaux de guerre Venitiens et de deux frégates qui doivent venir de

Toulon. Vous ferez vos efforts et tout ce que vous croirez nécessaire pour nous les faire passer.

Mon projet est de réunir les trois vaisseaux que nous avons à Ancone, celui que nous avons à Corfou, et les deux que nous avons à Alexandrie, dans le port d'Alexandrie, afin de pouvoir contenir à tout événement l'escadre Turque, et de tâcher ensuite à nous joindre avec les sept vaisseaux que vous vous trouverez avoir alors sous vos ordres, dont la principale destination dans ce moment ci est de favoriser le passage des convois qui nous arriveront de France.

Je donne ordre au Général Vaubois de vous fournir cent François par vaisseau de guerre de plus, afin de pouvoir avec ce renfort mieux contenir votre équipage que vous complèterez de tous les matelots Maltais que vous trouverez.

Je vous salue et vous complimente.

BONAPARTE.

TRANSLATION.

Head Quarters, Cairo (1st Fructidor), August 18th.

BONAPARTE, *Commander in Chief, to Rear Admiral VILLENEUVE, on board the Guillaume Tell, at Malta.**

I HAVE received, Citizen General, the letter which you wrote me at sea, ten leagues from Cape Celidonia.

* On the cover of this, and the two following letters, was

If it were possible to find fault with you, it must be for not having put to sea immediately after the blowing up of the *L'Orient*; since the position which the Admiral had taken, had then been forced, and completely surrounded for more than three hours by the enemy.

You have rendered in this circumstance, as well as in many others, an essential service to the Republic, by preserving a part of the fleet. The Rear Admirals, Gantheaume and Ducheyla, as well as all the sailors and soldiers of the fleet, whether wounded or not, are at Alexandria; all our prisoners having been restored.

The two ships of the line, *Le Causse*, and *Le Du-bois*, are manned and armed, as are the frigates, the *Junon*, the *Alceste*, the *Minion*, the *Carrere*, and all the other Venetian frigates. You will find at Malta two sail of the line, and a frigate; and you will wait the arrival of three Venetian sail of the line, and two frigates, which are coming from Toulon. You will make every effort, and do whatever you think necessary to bring us the whole.

My plan is to unite the three vessels which we have at Ancona, and that at Corfou, with the two we have in the port of Alexandria,* that we may be enabled, at

written, "*Pacquet contenant les dépêches du Général en Chef, pour Malte, à être jeté à la mer en cas de rencontre de l'ennemi.*" Packet, containing the dispatches of the Commander in Chief, for Malta, to be thrown into the sea in case of falling in with the enemy.

It is needless to add that the activity of our seamen baffled the General's precautions.

* The first thought that occurred to us on reading this most important letter was, that Bonaparte, in the plenitude of his occupations, had totally forgot there was such a people as the English in the world. He arranges, we see, the departure and

all events, to keep the Turkish squadron in check ; and then, to make an attempt to form a junction with the seven vessels which you will by this time have under you ; and of which the chief concern at present, is to favour the passage of the packets, &c. which will be dispatched to us from France.

I send an order to General Vaubois to supply you with a hundred additional French troops for each ship of war : this re-inforcement will fully enable you to keep your crews in order ; * these you will raise to their

arrival of his marine forces, with as much facility as if there were no obstacles to their movements. He condescends, indeed, to mention the Turkish squadron, which, at the time he wrote, was not at sea, but of the English squadron, which had just destroyed his own, which held him closely blocked up, and which rode in undisputed sovereignty from one end of the Mediterranean to the other, he takes not the slightest notice.

When we found in the letters of Le Pere, and others, a hope expressed that the English would return to Gibraltar, &c. we passed it over as one of those involuntary reveries in which the mind sometimes indulges, in spite of better knowledge. But now that we see the " Commander of the army of the East," not only take up the same absurd idea, but act upon it, as if it were a reality, we confess that we want language to express our astonishment.

We have frequently heard, and from very respectable authorities, that the merit of Bonaparte's Italian campaigns (such as it is) should be attributed to Berthier. A few such letters as this before us, would put the matter out of all doubt, for it is scarcely possible that a man so totally devoid of consideration, as he here appears, should ever be fit for any thing but a partizan ; for a desperate conductor of a desultory war, for an active and intrepid leader of a horde of Cossacks !

* This looks as if there had been some mutiny on board the *Guillaume Tell*, subsequent to the engagement. We believe there was once a design of surrendering the ship to Lord Nelson,

full complement, by taking all the Maltese sailors you can find.

I salute you, and send you my compliments.

BONAPARTE.

whether on the part of the officers, or crew, is uncertain;—this, however, we can say, that in either case it was not prevented by Villeneuve, who is totally unworthy of the praises lavished on him by Bonaparte.

No. XXII.

Au Quartier Général du Caire, le 4 Fructidor, an 6.

BONAPARTE, Général en Chef, au Citoyen MENARD,
Commissaire Ordonnateur de la Marine, à Malte.

JE vois avec plaisir, Citoyen Commissaire, par votre lettre du 15 Thermidor, que le Dego et la Carthaginoise sont prêts à partir. A l'heure qu'il est le Contre-amiral Villeneuve aura mouillé avec son escadre dans le port de Malte. J'espère aussi que vous travaillerez avec la plus grande activité à l'armement du troisième vaisseau, et qu'avant un mois il pourra augmenter l'escadre de l'Amiral Villeneuve. Je vous prie de mettre dans cette circonstance plus de zèle et d'activité que dans toute autre.

J'ai écrit en France pour qu'on vous fit passer cent mille francs, et j'écris au Général Vaubois pour qu'il vous aide de tous ses moyens. J'espère que vous serez bientôt joint par le reste de vos vaisseaux qui sont à Toulon.

Faites nous parvenir par toutes les occasions des nouvelles de France. Les petits bateaux qui longent la côte d'Afrique doivent pouvoir arriver sans difficulté.

Je vous salue,

BONAPARTE.

TRANSLATION.

Head Quarters, Cairo (4 Fructidor), August 21.

BONAPARTE, *Commander in Chief, to Citizen MENARD,
Commissary of the Marine, at Malta.*

I SEE with pleasure, Citizen Commissary, by your letter of the 2d instant, that the *Dego*,* and the *Carthaginoise*,* are ready for sea. By this time, Rear Admiral Villeneuve will have anchored with his squadron in the port of Malta. I flatter myself too, that you will apply yourself to the equipment of the third vessel, and that before the expiration of a month, it will be in a condition to augment the squadron of Admiral Villeneuve. I intreat you to use more zeal and alacrity in this instance, than in any other.

I have written to France for an hundred thousand livres for you; and I am now writing to General Vaubois to exhort him to assist you with every thing in his power. I hope that you will soon be re-inforced by the ships at Toulon.

* Two sixty-fours, belonging to the Maltese, which the French, as Rear Admiral Perrée says, have confiscated to the profit of the *Great Nation*. The latter vessel seems to have retained its original name, but the former, we see, has been nicknamed by the modest "hero of Italy," after one of his early victories.

Let slip no opportunity of sending us news from France. The small vessels which ply along the coast of Africa might reach us, I should think, without difficulty.

I salute you,

BONAPARTE.

No. XXIII.

Au Quartier Général du Caire, le 4 Fructidor, an 6.

**BONAPARTE, Général en Chef, au Général Divisionnaire
VAUBOIS, à Malte.**

IL est indispensable, Citoyen Général, que vous fournissiez à l'Amiral Villeneuve tout ce qui lui sera nécessaire, soit en approvisionnement, soit en garnison, soit en matelots, pour mettre en état les deux vaisseaux et deux frégates qu'il a avec lui.

Les communications sont extrêmement difficiles; je n'ai point reçu de lettres de vous, mais je compte assez sur votre zèle pour douter que la place de Malte ne se trouve dans le meilleur état, et que vous n'employerez tous vos moyens à nous captiver le peuple, et à nous faire parvenir toutes les nouvelles qui pourroient vous arriver de France.

BONAPARTE.

TRANSLATION.

Head Quarters, Cairo (4th Fructidor), August 21.

BONAPARTE, *Commander in Chief, to the General of Division, VAUBOIS, at Malta.*

THERE is an absolute necessity, Citizen General, for your supplying Admiral Villeneuve with every thing necessary (whether provisions, troops, or seamen), to enable him to fit out the two sail of the line, and the two frigates which he has with him.

Our communications are extremely difficult. I have received no letters from you. I have too much confidence in your zeal, however, to doubt for a moment that the fortifications of Malta are in the best condition, or that you will not make use of all the means in your power to attach the people * to us, and to expedite all the intelligence which may reach you from France.

BONAPARTE.

* In the original, *captiver le peuple*. Sweet, says the poet, are the uses of adversity! the insatiate spoiler who spared nothing, human or divine, at Malta; who stripped the poor of every resource, plundered the granaries, emptied the magazines, seized the public treasures, nay, the public curiosities,

Pocula adorandæ rubiginis, et populorum

Dona, vel antiquo positas a Rege coronas—

Who stripped the churches of their ornaments, the houses of

individuals of their little plate, and who carried the wantonness of insult and outrage so far as to steal the archives of the island; (useless to him in every respect) the insatiate spoiler, we say, since his reverse of fortune, is become tender and humane. His thoughts turn to the people whom he injured in the full tide of prosperity, and, trembling for the consequences of his perfidy and his guilt, he writes a whining admonition to his officers to "attach them to him by every means in their power!"

Hypocrite! what MEANS OF ATTACHMENT did you leave to the troops, whom your avarice exposed to the just vengeance of an injured nation? every thing which the Maltese regarded with reverence or love, you took with you, or sent to France; nay, such was your unbounded rapacity, that of the treasure you found in the Church of St. John, you did not leave Vaubois a single day's pay for the garrison, who, to this hour, have had no other resource than public and private plunder!

ATTACH THE PEOPLE!—No, the people are not stocks and stones; they will not always be robbed with impunity; nor will they, unless by compulsion, kiss the hands yet reeking with the blood of their wives and children.—ATTACH THEM!—No, your repentance and your insidious kindness come too late. Before your fleet had well lost sight of the coast, THE PEOPLE, stung to madness by their wrongs, rose up as one man, cut off hundreds of their oppressors, and are at this moment waging fierce and inexorable war against those who, protected by numerous fortresses, have hitherto found means to retard the sure approach of captivity or death!

No. XXIV.

Alexandrie, ce 12 Fructidor, an 6.

*A la Citoyenne DESCORCHES, Rue d'Anjou, No. 929,
Fauxbourg Honoré, à Paris.*

ENCORE une ; peut-être serez-vous plus heureuse que moi, bien aimée, vous en recevez quelqu'un(e) probablement, mais nous aucune. Celle que je vous ai écrite de Malthe a été prise sur la *Sensible* ; mais à notre arrivée ici j'en ai écrit une qui a dû vous parvenir ; une par le vaisseau le *Guillaume Tell*, après notre défaite, et une par les vaisseaux Anglois.

Voilà les seules occasions que nous avons eues jusqu'à présent. Celle-ci est aventurée, car le port d'Alexandrie est bloqué par trois vaisseaux et trois frégates, qui sont, le *Zélé* de 74, commandant ; le *Goliath* de 78 canons ; *Schwirt-sur* de 74 ; l'*Alchmene* frégate, et l'*Emeraude* frégate ; la *Bonne Citoyenne*, id. Devant Damiette il y a également un vaisseau, dont je ne me rappelle pas le nom, et outre cela deux frégates, la *Fortune chébeck*, qu'ils nous ont pris, et deux avisos, la *Torride*, et le *Léger*. Ce dernier venoit de France quand il a été pris, jugez du déplaisir. Toutes nos lettres ont été la capture de l'ennemi, excepté les dépêches du gouvernement, qui ont été jettées à la mer.

Parmi les lettres on a trouvé un portrait, qu'apparemment quelque belle envoyoit à son cher ami ; elles n'ont

pas de quoi se chagriner, car voudroit-on leur être infidèle, cela est impossible ; il n'y a pas une femme ici qui vaille la moindre de notre cher pays ; elles sont rares, quelques Européennes voilà tout. Pour les femmes du pays, les belles ne se montrent pas apparemment. Celles que l'on voit font trembler.

Tous ceux qui viennent de l'intérieur disent qu'Alexandrie est la plus belle ville ; hélas, que doit donc être le reste : figurez-vous un amas confus de maisons mal bâties, à un étage ; les belles avec terrasse, petite porte en bois, serrure id. ; point de fenêtres, mais un grillage en bois si rapproché qu'il est impossible de voir quelqu'un au travers ; rues étroites, hormis le quartier des Francs, et le côté des grands. Les habitants pauvres, qui forment le plus grand nombre, au naturel, hormis une chemise bleue jusqu'à mi-cuisse, qu'ils retroussent la moitié du tems dans leurs mouvemens, une ceinture, et un turban de guenille ; voilà leur appanage. J'espère que nous irons au Caire, nous verrons s'ils sont comme ceux-ci, alors j'aurai de ce charmant pays jusque par-dessus la tête. Je m'enrage d'y être, ainsi que le cher - - -

Nous désirons fortement et bien vivement retourner ; mais puisque nous y sommes tant vaut-il le voir. Les restes de cette fameuse Alexandrie ne sont pas beaux ; nous verrons si Memphis a eu le même sort. La maudite Egypte ; sable partout ! le limon que le Nil laisse sur la terre en fait la richesse. Un homme qui a dans le Désert un pays, peut cultiver autant de sable que son pays fournit d'eau pour arroser tous les jours.

Mon courage est soutenu par l'espoir d'un prompt retour. - - - - -
- - - - - il se pourroit bien
qu'on l'envoyât, je vole dans vos bras, de là à mon

département, je voudrois m'y trouver cet hyver ; le tems passe malheureusement trop vite. Il se pourroit bien que l'on fit quelque tentative, je serois fâché de ne pas m'y trouver.

Nous ferons peut-être voir que nos Bretons et Normands valent mieux que les Provençaux ; cette malheureuse défaite vient beaucoup de leur mauvaise conduite. Tous les chefs venus de Brest, excepté un, ont été tués ou dangereusement blessés. Je vois avec peine que l'Amiral sera la bête de somme, il ne peut se défendre, chacun le charge ; il a peut-être des torts, mais pas tous ceux qu'on lui donne et qu'on lui donnera. Gantheaume, son chef de l'état major, fait Contre-amiral par le Général en Chef, prendra, à ce qu'il paroît, à son retour du Caire, le commandement des misérables forces qui sont ici. Nous le désirons, et attendons avec impatience son arrivée ; cela soulagera, et nous verrons alors quelle bordée nous devons prendre, car faire un plan est une chose impossible dans les circonstances ; il faut que nous allions au Caire pour bien juger où nous ferons voile selon les circonstances.

Que de gens attrapés, chère amie, tous ces faiseurs de fortune, ou bien tous ces voleurs, ont le nez bas, et voudroient retourner d'où ils sont partis, je crois. Je vois avec beaucoup de plaisir que la plus grande partie aura plutôt perdu que gagné ; il y en aura quelqu'uns qui feront de bonnes affaires, mais ce sera la minorité, et ils auront bien sué. Les Arabes du Désert en ont expédié plusieurs pour l'autre monde : ils harcelent tellement les villes et villages, qu'à deux cents pas hors l'enceinte on court de grands dangers : plusieurs personnes ont été tuées de cette manière.

Murat Bey s'est retiré dans la Haute Egypte, où on

le poursuit sans succès. Ibrahim Bey en Syrie, on l'a poursuivi inutilement ; on a néanmoins atteint son arrière-garde, qui s'est supérieurement battue, et qui ne s'est pas laissé entamer, de sorte qu'on l'a laissé continuer tranquillement sa route. Les richesses ont été presque toutes enlevées ; ce que l'on a eu a été très-peu de choses. Je crains que l'on ne manque d'argent ; on en manquera certainement, si l'on veut exécuter de beaux projets qui seroient bien utiles, qui coûteroient immensément. Les gens du pays sont pauvres, il n'y a pas de ressource de ce côté-là ; il n'est resté aucun Mamelouk ; leur bravoure est étonnante. Tous bien armés, intrépides à l'excès, ils sont venus se faire tuer dans les rangs ; aucuns ne se sont rendus.

Voilà tout ce que je puis vous dire pour le moment. Je ne vous parle que d'affaires, mais dans celle qui partira en même tems par un autre bâtiment, qui sera plus sure selon ma manière de voir, mon cœur s'ouvrira à cette chère et bien aimée amie.

AVRIEURY.

TRANSLATION.

Alexandria (12 Fructidor), August 29th.

To the female Citizen DESCORCHES, Rue d'Anjou, No. 929, Fauxbourg Honoré, à Paris.

YET another letter. You may probably, my love, be more happy than me : some of my letters may chance to reach

you ; but I receive none of yours ; that which I wrote from Malta was taken in the *Sensible* ; but on our arrival here I wrote you one, which I think must have come to hand. I sent you one, too, by the *Guillaume Tell*, after our defeat, and another by the English fleet.

These are all the opportunities I have had ; the present letter is hazarded, for the port of Alexandria is blocked up by three sail of the line, and three frigates : the *Zealous*, the flag-ship ; the *Goliath*, and the *Swiftsure* ; the *Alcmene*, the *Emerald*, and the *Bonne Citoyenne*. Another ship of the line, whose name I do not recollect, is cruizing before Damietta, with two frigates, the corvette *La Fortune*, which they took from us, and two advice boats, *La Torride* and *Le Leger*. This last was coming from France when it was taken ; judge then, how wretched it made us ; all our letters fell into the hands of the enemy, the official ones excepted,* which were thrown over-board.

Amongst the letters, the English found a miniature, which some fair one had apparently sent to her lover. The ladies need not be much alarmed, for their swains have not the power, if they had the will, to be unfaith-

* There was luckily no "exception," as the reader will see by the following extract from Captain Hope's Letter to the Admiralty.

"Though every preparation was made for boarding the *Leger*, to save any dispatches she might have for Bonaparte, we could not prevent their being thrown overboard ; which was, however, perceived by John Taylor, and James Harding, belonging to the *Alcmene*, who, at the risk of their lives, dashed overboard, and saved the whole of them." *Gazette, Sept. 30th, 1798.*

It is pleasant to add, that these intrepid men have been gratefully remembered by their country.

ful. We have a few, and but a few, European women here; but the best of them are inferior in attractions to the veriest dowdies of our dear native land. As for those of the country, the handsome ones I fancy, keep themselves concealed; for those that we see absolutely frighten us.*

Every person that comes from the interior of the country tells us that Alexandria is the finest city in Egypt. Good gods! what must the rest be then? figure to yourself a confused mass of ill built houses of one story, the best of them with a terrace; a little door with a wooden lock, no windows but a lattice of wood, of which the bars are so close that it is almost impossible to distinguish any object through them; and little narrow streets, except what they call "the Quarter of the Franks," and the "Residence of the Grandees." The poor inhabitants, infinitely the greater number, in a state of nature, with the exception of a blue shirt, which reaches half way down their thighs, and which is tucked up more than half their time, a girdle, and a turban dropping to rags. This is their whole wardrobe!

I hope we shall soon go to Cairo; we shall then see if the people of that city are like these; if so, I shall have had my belly-full of this blessed country. I could tear myself to pieces for coming here; so could my dear friend * * *.

We wish vehemently — ay, and very vehemently to

* Another letter says, "I never saw any thing so disgusting as their women. A traveller called Savary" (this is a most scurvy designation of the man on whose accuracy all France relied) "has had, I scarce know how, the stupidity (*niaiserie*) to

return to France ; but since we are here it is as well to see as much as we can.* The remains of this famous Alexandria are poor enough ; we shall see if Memphis has any thing better to shew. This infernal Egypt ! nothing but a waste of sand. The mud which the Nile leaves upon the ground constitutes all its wealth. A man who has a tract of land in the Desert, may cultivate as much sand as he can find constant water for. My courage is sustained by the hope of a speedy return.

- - - - -
- - - - - † it may still be sent : in that case I shall fly to your arms, and from thence to my department. I am anxious to be there this winter ; time passes away unhappily, too rapidly. It is not unlikely but that some attempt may be made, and I should be sorry not to be on the spot.

We shall perhaps, shew the world that the Bretons

compare these filthy objects to the Princess Nausicaa ! I could forgive him if his design was merely to laugh at the princess ; but he is quite serious."

* Avrieury seems to have thought of the old adage, *tantum valet quantum sonat* ; or perhaps he never thought at all of the matter. His journey to Memphis was probably postponed. He may therefore comfort himself (supposing these remarks should ever fall in his way) by hearing that he has lost nothing by the delay ; for we can confidently assure him that Memphis has even less "to shew" than Alexandria. *Etiam periere ruinæ* ; its very ruins have disappeared.

† Here are two lines obliterated by a fold ; it is impossible to restore them, but their purport may be guessed at from what follows. Avrieury, it should seem, flattered himself that if a certain expedition took place, he should be recalled to engage in it. The allusion is evidently to the projected invasion of Ireland.

One would think the Citizen had almost had enough of INVASIONS. It appears from his own account, that the one he is at

and Normands are rather superior to the Provencials. This unfortunate defeat arises in a great measure, from their bad conduct.* All the officers who came from Brest, one only excepted, are either killed or dangerously wounded. I see with pain that the Admiral will be made the pack-horse. He cannot help himself, and therefore every body is loading him. He may have committed errors, but certainly not all that are charged, and that will continue to be charged, upon him. Gantheaume, his chief of the staff, who was made a Rear Admiral by the Commander in Chief, will assume, as it seems, on his return from Cairo, the command of the miserable force we have here. We are all desirous of it, and anxiously expect his arrival; this will console us a little, and we shall then see what steps to take next; for to form any plan here, in our present circumstances, is impossible. Our destination must be ultimately directed by the situation of affairs at Cairo.

What a number of people have been taken in, my dear girl! All those sudden acquirers of fortunes, or

present engaged in, is not very consoling to his feelings; and we can take upon us to assure him, that he would have found the other productive of no extraordinary amusement. Alexandria, we allow, has little to gratify his curiosity, but Mill-prison has still less; as the envied partakers of the expedition in question may one day let him know.

* There is something extremely unjust (but when was a Frenchman just to the unfortunate?) in attributing the defeat of the 1st of August to the Provencials. They fought at least as well as the Bretons and Normands, who if we may judge from the fate of the Brest squadron on the coast of Ireland (which we suppose was manned with them), have very little reason, whatever Avrieury may fancy, to boast of their superiority either of conduct or courage.

rather all those robbers,* are pitifully down in the mouth, and would, I believe, be very happy to return from whence they came. It gives me a deal of pleasure to see, that the majority of them will rather have lost than gained by their speculations. Some, indeed, have

* As all the expeditions of France have been undertaken with a view to plunder, their armies have been constantly followed by large bodies of people of this description, prepared to treat for such STOLEN GOODS as were of too unwieldy a nature to be put up with the baggage.

Bonaparte never moved without a legion of these convenient RECEIVERS in his train, who were always ready to purchase, at a low rate, whatever he and his harpies could seize in the houses of individuals, from the cottager to the prince. It is perhaps no exaggeration to say, that this Chief of Brokers has sold, for his own share, more furniture, plate, wine, pictures, busts, &c. than half the auctioneers in Europe.

Notwithstanding the swarms of "robbers" which, by Avrieny's account, followed him into Egypt, we do not find that the number in Italy was at all lessened. We have before us the JOURNAL of what took place on the seizure of Rome, written by a man of integrity and observation, who was himself a witness of what he relates. From THIS, we borrow the following passage:

"As soon as the Pope was removed, the Vatican and Quirinal palaces were opened, and an inventory made of every article. The company of *brokers* that followed the army were then permitted to purchase, upon their own terms, whatever they chose, and afterwards the Jews of the Getta were called in to take the rest.

"These *brokers*" adds the writer (Mr. Richard Duppa), "were a number of monied men, from France, particularly from Lyons and Marseilles, who joined together a considerable capital towards supporting the army of Italy, when Bonaparte first crossed the Alps, with one express condition, of their having the refusal of any spoils that might be made, at a certain *per centage*, for their own profit, upon a fair valuation, which valuation was to be made by themselves!"

done tolerably well, but they are very few ; and few as they are, have sweated pretty handsomely for what they have got. The Arabs of the Desert have sent a good many of them to the other world. These people infest the towns and villages in such a manner, that at two hundred paces from the walls, one is always in the most imminent danger of being shot. Several of our men have been destroyed in this way.

Murad Bey is retired into Upper Egypt, where he has been pursued without success ; Ibrahim Bey into Syria ; and he too has been pursued to no purpose. Our troops, indeed, came up with his rear-guard, which fought in a most gallant manner : and as we could make no impression on it with all our efforts, we were obliged to let it proceed tranquilly to its destination. The rich caravan was almost all secured by Ibrahim ; what we obtained was scarcely worth taking. I am afraid that we shall want money soon : I am certain we shall, if we pretend to execute those fine projects, which will undoubtedly be useful, but which will cost an immense sum ! the people of the country are poor ; nothing, therefore, can be expected from them.—There is not a single Mamelouc in the country. Their bravery is astonishing : well armed, and intrepid to excess, they rushed upon our ranks to be butchered. Not one of them would accept quarter.

This is all that I can say at present. I have talked to you in this letter only of business ; but in another which I shall send at the same time, by what I conceive to be a safer mode of conveyance, I shall open all my heart to my dearest and best beloved wife.

AVRIEURY.

No. XXV.

Alexandrie, le 16 Fructidor, an 6.

Le Contre-amiral GANTEAUME, aux Généraux commandants les Forces de Terre et de Mer, à Malte.

Citoyens,

C'EST avec la douleur dans l'âme que je vous prévien que le 14 du mois dernier, l'armée navale de la République à été attaquée par celle Britannique, aux ordres du Contre-amiral Nelson. Le combat commencé à six heures du soir, n'a fini que dans la matinée du 15. Après une résistance extrêmement opiniâtre, la force l'a emporté, et notre escadre, inférieure par le nombre des vaisseaux, la composition, et l'organisation des équipages, a succombé.

Nous avons dans cette fatale affaire eu le malheur de perdre onze vaisseaux brûlés ou amarqués par l'ennemi. Presque tous les officiers commandants ont été tués ou blessés. Depuis cette malheureuse affaire les ennemis sont maîtres de nos côtes, et ils interceptent toutes nos communications, avec une simple division de quatre vaisseaux et quelques frégates. Le reste de l'armée et les prises ont fait route pour la Sicile.

Notre position intérieure est, cependant, satisfaisante. Notre armée occupe toute la Basse Egypte. Le Général en Chef est au Caire. Les Mamelouks ont été battus,

detruits en partie, et dispersés. Un corps sous le commandement d'Ibrahim Bey, s'est réfugié en Syrie, et Murat Bey à monté dans le Said. Le Général Desaix est à sa poursuite, et personne ne doute qu'au premier jour nous n'apprenions sa défaite. Maîtres alors de toute l'Egypte, nous pourrons nous y maintenir, pour peu que nous recevions des secours pendant l'hyver.

Je vous adresse avec cette lettre les dépêches du Gouvernement. Veuillez les faire passer en toute diligence.

Salut et fraternité.

H. GANTEAUME.

TRANSLATION.

Alexandria, September 2d.

Rear Admiral GANTEAUME, to the Generals commanding the Land and Sea Forces, at Malta.

Citizens,

TIS with anguish of soul I inform you, that on the first of last month, the fleet of the Republic was attacked and defeated by that of Great Britain, under the command of Admiral Nelson. The action began at six in the evening, and did not finish till the forenoon of the next day. After a most vigorous struggle, force

prevailed, and our fleet, inferior * both in the number of vessels, and in the composition of their crews, yielded the day.

* How could Ganteaume (evidently a man of sense) set down this absurd and contemptible falsehood! He states the English force correctly enough in the First Part (p. 230.), and he must have known, while he was writing, that the "superiority," in every thing (courage and capacity excepted) was on the side of the French.

The number of vessels, it is true, was equal: yet if we consider that the largest line of battle ship in the English squadron was probably inferior in size to the smallest in that of the French; that the latter had one ship of 120 guns, three of 80, four frigates, several gun-boats, and a "battery of guns and mortars on an island in their van," to which we had nothing to oppose; we can have little hesitation in deciding the question of superiority.

In stating the number of vessels to be equal, it should be observed, that we count the *Leander* in the line. How fit she was for this, may be seen by comparing her size and force to any one of the French seventy-fours opposed to her; to the *Généreux*, for example, by whom she was afterwards captured.

We have now before us a letter written by Sir Edward Berry; from this we shall take the liberty of extracting the relative statement of the force, &c. of the two ships.

"The *Généreux*, of 74 guns, is 193 feet 7 inches in length, and 23 feet in depth; burden 2144 tons; carries thirty 36-pounders; thirty 18 ditto; and four 42-pound carronades; complement 700 men (when she fell in with the *Leander* she had 900.)

"The *Leander*, of 50 guns, is 146 feet 6 inches in length; and 17 feet, 5 inches in depth; burden 1052 tons: carries twenty-two 24-pounders, twenty-two 12 ditto, and six 6 ditto; complement 343 men (when captured, she had only 282, boys included) her masts, yards, and sails, those of a thirty-two gun frigate."

Thus far Captain Berry. Whether the *Morning Chronicle*,

We had the misfortune, in this fatal contest, to lose eleven sail of the line. Almost all the superior officers were killed or wounded. Since this calamitous event, the enemy is master of the coast, and intercepts all our communications, with a small division of four sail of the line, and a few frigates. The rest of their fleet has sailed, with the prizes, for Sicily.

Our position in the interior is, however, satisfactory. We are in possession of all Lower Egypt. The Commander in Chief is at Cairo. The Mameloucs have been defeated, destroyed in part, and dispersed. A body of them, under the command of Ibrahim Bey, has

which denies this brave man courage in common with the rest of his countrymen, will have the temerity to question his veracity, we know not,—should that paper, however, feel inclined to do so, we think it lies in our power to assist it: we can furnish it with a counter-testimony from a quarter which it has never yet had the uncandidness to doubt; we mean from the French themselves.

Extract of an official letter from the Captain of the Généreux.

Corfou, Sept. 1st.

“ I have the pleasure of informing you that I am arrived at this place with the English ship, the *Leander*, of SEVENTY-FOUR guns, which I fell in with near Candia.”—Here follow some absurd lies concerning the action of the 1st of August, which we omit.

“ With respect to the *Leander*, I was obliged to engage her for near five hours. She mounts SEVENTY-FOUR GUNS; 30, 24, and 12-pounders! I ought to have carried her in less than an hour,” (this is true enough) “ for we fought broadside and broadside: during the action we fell aboard each other, and if my crew had been a little more alert I should then have taken her” !!!

LE JOILLE, jun.

taken shelter in Syria, and Murad Bey has passed into the Said. General Desaix is in pursuit of him, and no one here entertains a doubt but that we shall speedily hear of his defeat. In that case, masters of the whole of Egypt, we shall be able to maintain ourselves in the country, PROVIDED that we receive a little assistance from France during the winter.

I send you, with this letter, my dispatches for Government. Have the goodness to forward them without delay.

Health and fraternity.

H. GANTEAUME.

OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS, inclosed in Rear Admiral GANTEAUME'S Dispatches to the Generals commanding the Land and Sea Forces, at Malta.

No. 1.

Etat des Equipages à bord des Bâtimens composant la Division dans le Port d'Alexandrie, à l'époque du 9 Fructidor, an 6^e.

Muster-Roll of the Crews on board the Vessels, composing the Division in the Port of Alexandria, taken on the 26th of August, 1798.

SHIPS OF THE LINE, AND FRIGATES.

			Number of men.
Le Causse	-	-	608
Le Dubois	-	-	581
La Courageuse	-	-	334
La Junon	-	-	368
Le Meuiron	-	-	293
Le Cazzero	-	-	228
L'Alceste	-	-	278
Le Montenotte	-	-	304
Le Léoben	-	-	258
La Mantoue	-	-	201
			<hr/>
			3453
			<hr/>

SMALLER VESSELS. (Bâtimens Légers.)

		Number of men.	
Corvettes.—	Le Rivoly	- 81	
	Salamine	- 126	
	Alerte	- 82	
	Lody	- 102	
Gun-Boats.—	La Portugaise	- 103	
	Oranger	- 88	
	Aglæé	- 102	
Packets, or Sloops of War	} La Foudre	- 69	
		Negresse	- 75
		Chasseur	- 94
		Indépendant	- 48
		Vif	- 60
		Chien de Chasse	65
Galley.—	La Victoire	- 400	
		<hr/> 1495	

Alexandria (14 Fructidor),
August 31st, 1798.

Rear Admiral

GANTEAUME.

No. 2.

*Etat des Bâtimens composant la Flotille du Nil, sous le
Commandement du Contre-amiral PERRE'E.*

*List of the Vessels composing the Flotilla of the Nile, under
the Command of Rear Admiral PERRE'E.*

Le Chebec, Le Cerf.
Le Demi Chebec, La Revanche.

SMALL SLOOPS OF WAR.

La Capricieuse.
Sans Quartier,
Pluvier.
Etoile.
Eclair.
Demi Galley. (Name not known.)
La Coquette.
L'Amoureuse.

GUN-BOATS.

L'Helene.
La Victoire.
L'Espérance.

Les états de situation d'équipage des bâtimens mentionnés ci-dessus ne nous sont pas parvenus.

The muster-rolls of the crews of the vessels above mentioned are not come to hand.

H. G.

No. 3.

Etat des hommes composant les Equipages des Convois mouillés au Port d'Alexandrie, sous les Ordres du Chef de Division, DUMANOIR LE PELLEY.

Number of Seamen composing the Crews of the Transports, now at Anchor in the Port of Alexandria, under the Command of the Chief of Division, DUMANOIR LE PELLEY.

	Number of men.	
Toulon Transports	-	533
Marseilles - do.	-	569
Ajaccio - do.	-	185
Gênes - do.	-	995
Civita Vecchia do.	-	735
		<hr/>
		3017

Fait double au Bureau de la Majorité du Contre-amiral Ganteaume, le 16 Fructidor, an 6.

Copied at the Office of the Majority of Rear-admiral Ganteaume, September 2d, 1798.

Adjutant NICHOLAS JUGAN.

Examined, H. GANTEAUME.

These DOCUMENTS are of a most curious and important nature. They enable us to complete, in some measure, the estimate of the numbers sacrificed in this insane and wicked expedition.

In the First Part we reckoned the land forces at 42,000; and this, we are persuaded, was rather under than over the amount. In the French papers we find them estimated differently, *i. e.* "Desaix's division, composed of three demi-brigades; Kleber's, *id.*; Menou's, *id.*; Bon's, *id.*; and Regnier's of two; forming in all fourteen demi-brigades; of which four of light infantry, and ten of the line. Each demi-brigade consists of 2,400 men; total of infantry, therefore, 33,600. The cavalry, commanded by Damas, consists of one regiment of hussars, one of chasseurs, and three of dragoons; total 3,000,—making altogether 36,600." But this is evidently under-rated, we shall, therefore, adopt our first number, 42,000.

The sea forces, as appears from the certificate of the French Commissaries, delivered to Admiral Lord Nelson, on the fifth of August, amounted to 10,710. In this the crews of the gun-boats are not included, we shall, therefore, take them at 300.

On board the ships of the line, frigates, and smaller vessels of war, in the port of Alexandria, there are, according to the Schedule (No. 1.), 4,948. On the flotilla of the Nile (No. 2.), averaging the crews at a hundred each, 1,500,—and in the different trans ports in the port of Alexandria (No. 3.), 3,017. If then we recapitulate those numbers,—

Land forces	-	-	-	42,000
Sea ditto	-	-	-	11,010
Ships, &c. at Alexandria	-	-	-	4,948
Flotilla on the Nile	-	-	-	1,500
Transports	-	-	-	3,017
				<hr/>
				62,475
				<hr/>

We shall have a sum which, we believe, will not be far from the truth.

There are yet, however, to be added, the swarms of speculators, purchasers of plunder, robbers, as Avrieury justly calls them (see the preceding letter) which, like vultures, always follow the desolating track of a French army; before the reader can accurately appreciate the whole number vomited forth by France on this unhappy country.

Disburthened Europe, while she condole with Egypt on the visitation of this eleventh, and worst plague, may yet congratulate herself on its having at length removed from her wasted and bleeding realms.—Nor need she fear its return. Scarce an individual of those numerous thousands has yet reached France; and few indeed, and scanty, will be their future arrivals!—The Directory have obtained their end: they are happy *usque ad delicias votorum*; and we sincerely facilitate them, and the civilized world in general, on the probable extinction of a horde of turbulent and cruel assassins!

No. XXVI.

Alexandrie, le 18 Fructidor, an 6.

L'Ordonnateur de la Marine, au Citoyen POUPET, Commissaire de la Marine au Havre.

MES précédentes vous sont-elles parvenues, mon cher camarade? J'ai lieu de craindre que non, et malheureusement je suis privé des vôtres. Si vous êtes accablé de besogne, je n'en ai pas moins ici. Sans moyens, sans ressources, il faut tout créer, et dans quelles circonstances? lorsqu'on a été témoin, pour ainsi dire, des affreux événemens du 14 du dernier.

Permettez moi je vous rappelle vos promesses à l'égard de ma famille; j'en attends l'exécution de votre amitié et de votre complaisance. Chargez-vous, mon cher camarade, de compliments pour vos collaborateurs, et recevez l'assurance de mon inviolable attachement.

LE ROY.

P. S. Il paroît que nous avons perdu nos camarades Jaubert, Peret, et l'officier de santé en chef de l'escadre, le Citoyen Renard. Vous aurez su les autres affligeants détails avant la réception de ma lettre.

TRANSLATION.

Alexandria (18 Fructidor), September 4th.

The Inspector of the Marine, to Citizen POUPET, Commissary of the Marine, at Havre.

HAVE any of my former letters reached you, my dear comrade?—I am afraid not; and unfortunately I have received none of yours. If you are sinking under the weight of business, I am no less so.—Without means, without resources, I have every thing to create, as it were,—and under what circumstances?—under those of having been almost an eye-witness of the dreadful catastrophe of the 1st of August.

Allow me to put you in mind of your promises respecting my family; I look for the execution of them from your friendship, and your readiness to oblige. Have the goodness, my dear comrade, to present my compliments to your fellow labourers, and accept, for yourself, the assurance of my inviolable attachment.

LE ROY.

P. S. We have lost our comrades Jaubert,* Peret,

* Our conjecture then was right (Part I. p. 36.) and Jaubert perished in the explosion of the L'Orient.

How many of the writers of the First Part of this Correspondence, and of those who are mentioned by them, have pe-

and the first physician to the fleet, Citizen Renard. The other distressing events you will hear of, before my letter reaches you.

rished since their letters reached us! For the French themselves we feel little regret.

—'tis the sport to see the engineer

Hois'd with his own petar.

They came to destroy, and they have been destroyed!—But we deeply lament the fate of the innocent victims of their barbarity. The Cheriff Coraim (of whom the reader will find some mention in the First Part, p. 193.) has, we see, been barbarously put to death at Cairo, and had his hoary head paraded round the streets, in the true style of Parisian expeditions.

When it is considered that the crime of this man (according to the French themselves) consisted in his not being seduced by a "tricoloured scarf," to assist in the destruction of his brethren; and that he was only removed from Alexandria, as a temporary measure of security,—his being dragged to Cairo, and murdered by Bonaparte, *without evidence*, (for *that*, Loyer says, was left behind) must furnish the admirers of the General's justice and humanity, and, above all, the Reverend Mr. Wakefield, with fresh topics of "consolation and triumph!"



No. XXVII.

Alexandrie, le 18 Fructidor, an 6.

L'Ordonnateur de la Marine, au Vice-amiral
THEVENARD.

Citoyen Général,

JE ne sais si mes lettres vous sont parvenues ; mais il y a bien long temps que je n'ai reçu des vôtres. L'interception, ou plutôt la difficulté, des communications en est surement cause. Des bâtimens que vous avez expédiés, le bateau Corse *Egalité*, le *Vif*, le *Lody*, sont seuls parvenus. Le *Léger* à été pris en vue du port le 5 de ce mois. *L'Anémone*, chassée par les Anglais, a été forcée de faire côte le 16. Partie de ses malheureux passagers et équipages ont été victimes des Bédouins, quelques uns ont été faits prisonniers par eux et rachetés ensuite ; on présume quelques autres prisonniers des Anglois.

Le Général Ganteaume vous adresse, sans doute, Citoyen Général, des détails sur les funestes événemens du 14 du mois dernier. Permettez que je joigne mes sentimens à ceux de douleur que vous éprouvez, et comme ami de votre patrie et comme père. Votre jeune fils a eu le bonheur d'échapper ; il est embarqué avec le Capitaine Capousique.

Permettez encore, Citoyen Général, que je vous

prie de me rappeler au souvenir du Citoyen Girandi. Il sera je crois convenable de retarder les envoys dont vous avez bien voulu vous charger, jusqu'à ce qu'il y ait plus de sureté dans les transports.

Agréez l'expression de mon respectueux attachement.

LE ROY.

TRANSLATION.

Alexandria (18 Fructidor), September 4th.

*The Inspector of the Marine, to Vice-admiral
THEVENARD.*

Citizen General,

I DO not know whether any of my letters have reached you, but 'tis now a very long time since any of yours have reached me; which I attribute entirely to the interception, or rather to the difficulty of our communications. Of all the vessels which you have dispatched, the Corsican brig *Egalité*, the *Vif*, and the *Lodi*, are the only ones which have been fortunate enough to arrive here. The *Léger* was taken within sight of the port, on the 22d ult.; and the *Anémone*, chased by the English, was forced* to run aground the day before

* No, Mr. Inspector, the *Anemone* was *not forced* to run aground,—but as we probably know more of this circumstance

yesterday. Some of the unhappy passengers and crew were murdered by the Arabs, others were made

than you do, and as it touches upon a matter which we have very much at heart, we will take the opportunity of enlarging upon it.

On the 2d of September (the day mentioned by Le Roy) two of our frigates chased the *Anemone*, of four guns, and sixty men, into shallow water, in the road of Marabout. As escape was impossible, and resistance totally out of the question, the boats were sent to take possession of her, as a matter of course. On their approach, she first fired at them, and then, dreading their resentment for such an unauthorized display of hostility, cut her cable, and ran ashore. Here her crew was immediately seized by the Arabs; all who attempted resistance were cut down on the spot, and the rest stripped entirely naked. In this condition, seven of them, among whom was the captain, contrived to slip from their hands, and ran down to the beach, where, falling on their knees in the water, they begged to be taken on board by the men, whom, with a degree of insolence and rancour to be found only in the modern French, they had just before wantonly attempted to destroy! To say that those men were English, is sufficient. "I AM HAPPY," says the brave commander of the *Zealous*, "to add, that the humanity of our people extended so far as to swim on shore with lines and small casks to save them. One young gentleman (midshipman of the *Emerald*) particularly distinguished himself: he brought off the commander, Gardon, at the hazard of his own life!" *Gazette, Nov. 13th.*

This was great, this was noble, this was truly English! Gardon deserved to be run up to the yard-arm for a murderer; yet we see the very youth, whose life he had treacherously endangered, risking it again to save him!

And the men who could do this, are termed, by the *Morning Chronicle*, "disgraced cowards!"

We proceed without apology. We feel, we confess, an inexpressible pleasure in dwelling on the merits of our brave tars; and think, that whenever we have an opportunity of thwarting

prisoners by them, and have since been ransomed, and the rest, we presume, were taken by the English.

the base attempts of the Jacobin prints to sacrifice their honour to France, it is an indispensable duty to seize it with avidity.

Every one knows the cruelties inflicted upon such of our countrymen as had the misfortune to fall into the hands of the French. They were confined (see the Report of the House of Commons) in pestilent dungeons, starved, and sometimes poisoned. This the Morning Chronicle (for the other Jacobin prints are beneath notice) denied, as long as denial was possible; and when it was no longer so, insinuated, as the last piece of service it could render the Directory, that "if the truth could be *fairly* come at, we should find we had no great reason to complain!!!"

The TRUTH, happily, may be *fairly* come at; and we earnestly intreat the reader to follow us with care through the important documents we are about to lay before him; after which we will trust him to form his own conclusions on the "reason we have to complain."

We have just seen the conduct of the English to the French. Let us now see that of the French to the English; when, not as in the former case, after an unjustifiable assault,—but after gallantly and honourably contending for victory, they were at length obliged to yield to the superiority of force and numbers."

"When the French" (we quote from the letter of Captain Berry, which we mentioned above) "took possession of the Leander, they plundered the officers of *all their* clothes; even the surgeon's instruments did not escape them. My sword was torn out of my hand; but I recovered it, by insisting that I would deliver it to Le Joille myself. He said to Captain Thomson and me, you have fought well, I will only take care of your swords till you quit the Généreux: but in this instance, as in every other, he broke his word with me.

"I did not save a coat but the one I had on, nor any other article;—when I remonstrated, he said he would *lend* me one." &c. &c.

But this, the Morning Chronicle will say, was immediately

General Ganteaume has undoubtedly sent you, Citizen General, a detailed account of the fatal event

after the heat of action:—let us see then how these “generous” victors conducted themselves after their arrival at Corfou, where they had leisure to deliberate coolly on the conduct of the men whom they had captured, and whose unprecedented gallantry would have extorted pity and respect from the wildest savages. Here, again, “the TRUTH may be *fairly* come at,” as our readers will readily allow, we believe, after perusing the following dispatch.

Trieste, 3d Dec. 1798.

My Lords,

THIRTY seamen of the *Leander* which was taken and carried into Corfou, arrived here from that island, the 20th ultimo; these poor men were forced away in three small inconvenient vessels, 10 in each, some of them badly wounded, and in a very weak state, being obliged to lie on the decks, exposed to the inclemency of the season 17 days. On Friday, 10 more arrived from the same place. The first 30, having finished their quarantine of 13 days, came out this morning, much recovered, from the attentions to their health and food. The last 10, have suffered more than the others, being 23 days on their passage, and so short of provisions, that, had not some passengers taken compassion on them, they must have perished. I am sorry to observe, the French behaved very badly to them in the shortness of provision. I hope, by proper care, to restore these valuable meritorious men to their country and families.

I have the honour to be, &c.

EDWARD STANLEY.

British Consul at Trieste.

Right Hon. Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

If the perusal of this dispatch awakes the same feelings in our

of the first of August. Suffer me to join my heart-felt sorrow to that which you must so poignantly

readers that it did in the breast of those to whom it is addressed, our gallant countrymen will not have suffered in vain.

But while the French were thus exposing their prisoners, with their wounds yet open, to the almost certain hazard of perishing by shipwreck, or hunger, what was the conduct of the English to *theirs*? It fortunately happens, that here too "the TRUTH may be fairly come at;"—and when we say that it proceeds from the mouth of Mons. NIOU, we presume that the Morning Chronicle itself will acquiesce in the testimony.

Londres, le 12 9bre, 1798. (V. S.)

NIOU, Commissaire du Gouvernement Français en Angleterre, pour tout ce qui est relatif à l'Echange et au Traitement des Prisonniers de Guerre.

A Messieurs les Commissaires du Transport Office.

Messieurs,

JE suis arrivé ce matin du long et pénible voyage que je viens de faire dans divers dépôts de prisonniers de guerre François en Angleterre.

J'ai l'honneur de vous renvoyer le passeport qui m'a été remis à Edinbourg pour me rendre à Norman Crosse, et de là à Londres. Veuillez recevoir mes remerciements de l'exactitude que vous avez bien voulu apporter à m'envoyer cette piece.

Une indisposition m'empêchant de sortir ce matin ; je ne peux me rendre dans l'instant auprès de vous, pour vous entretenir sur divers objets extrêmement importants. Je vous prie de trouver bon que je m'y rende demain à l'heure que vous voudrez bien m'indiquer.

On ne peut-être plus satisfait que je ne l'ai été dans ma tournée des sentiments D'HUMANITE ET DE JUSTICE qui président à la conduite des chefs qui dirigent, SOUS VOS ORDRES, l'Administration des

experience, both as a lover of your country, and as a father. Your youngest son has had the happiness to

prisons où les Français sont détenus. Il est bien doux pour mon cœur d'avoir cet hommage à rendre à la vérité.

J'ai l'honneur d'être, &c.

NIOU.

TRANSLATION.

London, November 12th, 1798. (O. S.)

NIOU, Commissary of the French Government in England, for every thing which relates to the Exchange, and Maintenance of the Prisoners of War.

To Messrs. the Commissioners of the Board of Transports.

Gentlemen,

I AM arrived this morning after a long and troublesome journey which I have just made to the different depôts of the French prisoners of war in England.

I have the honour to return you the passport which was forwarded to me at Edinburgh, to enable me to proceed to Norman Cross, and from thence to London. Be pleased to accept my thanks for the punctuality with which you transmitted me this paper.

A slight indisposition prevents my coming abroad this morning; I cannot, therefore, wait on you at this instant,—but I beg of you to allow me to call on you to-morrow morning, at any hour which may suit you, as I want to have some conversation on a variety of objects of the first importance.

IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO BE BETTER PLEASED THAN I HAVE BEEN THROUGH THE WHOLE OF THIS JOURNEY, WITH THE SENTIMENTS OF HUMANITY, AND JUSTICE, WHICH REGULATE EVERY PART OF THE CONDUCT OF THE AGENTS, WHO

escape : * he is now on board the vessel of Captain Capousique.

Let me intreat you, Citizen General, to remember me to Citizen Giraudi. It will not be amiss, I think, to stop the sailing of the papers which you have undertaken to send us, till it can be done with less hazard.

Accept the assurances of my respectful attachment.

LE ROY.

DIRECT, UNDER YOUR ORDERS, THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE PRISONS IN WHICH THE FRENCH ARE KEPT. IT IS A SATISFACTION, MOST DEAR TO MY HEART, TO HAVE AN HOMAGE OF THIS KIND TO PAY TO TRUTH !

I have the honour to be, &c.

NIUV.

We make no apology, as we have already observed, for the length of this note ; indeed, it does not need it. If there be an Englishman whose breast does not glow at reading such testimonies to the unwearied humanity of his country, contrasted, as it here is, with the insolence, the rapacity, the rancour, and the cruelty of France, he is unworthy of it,—and we resign him, with ineffable contempt, to the friendship of the M. C. With that paper he may turn with a malignant scowl from conviction, and exclaim, with equal baseness and stupidity, that “ if the TRUTH could be *fairly* come at, we should find we had no great reason to complain.”

* Admiral Thevenard's eldest son commanded the *Aquilon*, of 74 guns (one of the captured ships) and was killed in the engagement.

No. XXVIII.

St. Jean d'Acre, 19 Fructidor an 6^e.

JH. ENG. CALONES BEAUVOISIN, *Adjudant-Général employé dans l'Armée Française en Egypte, aux Citoyens Membres du Directoire Exécutif en France.*

Citoyens Directeurs,

CHARGE' par le Général Bonaparte d'une mission importante dans la Palestine, j'ai reçu ordre de lui, à mon départ d'Egypte, de vous faire parvenir par toutes les voies qui me paroistroient les plus sûres, les imprimés que vous trouverez ci-inclus. Peut-être vous auroient ils déjà été transmis : mais nos communications avec la France devenant de jour en jour plus difficiles, je regarde comme très-favorable l'occasion qui m'est offerte de vous donner des nouvelles de l'armée.

Notre position en Egypte est jusqu'à ce moment très-brillante, et si le succès de ma négociation avoit répondu à l'attente du Général en Chef, j'eusse pu avant mon retour auprès de lui, vous donner à l'avance quelques certitudes d'un avenir plus heureux. Cependant, rien n'est encore rompu, et il sera peut-être possible de revenir sur mes pas.

Je suis forcé d'être laconique. Je remets ma lettre à un Capitaine Ragusais, dont le bâtiment doit mettre à la voile sous peu de jours. Je desire ardemment que cette lettre puisse vous parvenir. Puissiez-vous en la

PART II.

P

recevant être convaincus, Citoyens Directeurs, qu'à 800 lieues de la patrie, nos cœurs y sont plus fortement attachés que jamais.

Recevez au nom de tous mes camarades et du brave Chef de l'armée Française, l'expression de tous nos sentimens, et l'assurance de notre sincère et respectueux dévouement.

JH. ENG. BEAUVOISIN.

Seul Français en ce moment dans la Palestine.

TRANSLATION.

St. Jean d'Acre (19 Fructidor), September 5th.

JH. ENG. CALONES BEAUVOISIN, *Adjutant-General, employed in the French Army, in Egypt, to the Citizens, Members of the Executive Directory in France.*

Citizen Directors,

CHARGED by General Bonaparte with an important mission in Palestine, I received orders from him, on my departure from Egypt, to transmit to you by every mode of conveyance that appeared to me most safe, the printed papers which you will find inclosed.* Perhaps they have already reached you; but as our communications with France are becoming every day more

* See the INTRODUCTION.

and more difficult, I embrace, with the greatest pleasure, the present opportunity of sending you the news of the army.

Our situation in Egypt is, to the present moment, highly brilliant: and if the success of my negotiation had answered the expectations of the Commander in Chief, I should have been enabled before my return to him, to give you, in advance, some unquestionable assurances of the future, more brilliant still,—the business, however, is not yet decidedly given up, and, perhaps, it may be in my power to recover the ground which I have lost.*

I am obliged to be laconic. I entrust my letter to the Captain of a Ragusan ship, which will sail in a few days. I most anxiously hope that it will reach you. May you, while you read it, be convinced, Citizen Directors, that at 800 leagues from our country our hearts are more strongly attached to it than ever.

* We lament that it is not in our power to give the reader any satisfactory account of the purport of this most curious letter. The writer seems to be one of those revolutionary missionaries who have always preceded the march of the French armies, and served the double purpose of corrupters and spies. His particular object, as has been observed, we have no means of knowing. It is some consolation, however, to be assured, that let it have been what it may, it is completely frustrated; for soon after the date of this dispatch, Beauvoisin was thrown into prison by the Governor of Acre.

His brother (such, at least, we conclude him to be) has experienced a very different fate. "He has been condemned (in the words of honest Dogberry) to everlasting redemption." *Le Citoyen Beauvoisin*, (says Bonaparte) adjoint, ayant quitté le poste qu'il avoit à l'avancée, et tenu des propos propres à décourager le soldat, sera destitué, et renvoyé en France par la première occasion!!!

Accept, in the name of all my comrades, and of the brave Commander of the French army, the expression of all our sentiments, and the assurance of our sincere and respectful devotion.

JH. ENG. BEAUVOISIN.

*The only Frenchman at this moment in Palestine.**

* It is worth observing, that this line was written at the very instant that the Jacobins of this and other countries were assuring the world, that the French troops were masters of the whole of Palestine! *Sic transit*, &c. &c.

No. XXIX.

A Alexandrie, le 23 Fructidor, an 6^e.

ROZIS à son Ami GRIVET.

Mon Cher,

C'EST avec bien du plaisir que je t'écris la présente, espérant qu'elle aura le bonheur de te parvenir, malgré les grandes difficultés que nous éprouvons depuis le moment malheureux de la destruction totale de notre escadre.

Au moment que l'armée de terre se bat comme des lions, celle de mer se bat comme des lâches. Nous ne devons nullement inculper les officiers subalternes des canoniers, et quelques matelots; mais une grande partie avec les officiers supérieurs se sont battus comme des traitres à leur patrie.

Nous habitons un pays où tout le monde se deplait à la mort. Si l'armée l'avoit connu avant de partir de France, nul de nous n'auroit embarqué, et auroit préféré un million de fois la mort que de nous voir réduits à la misère où nous sommes: nous avons l'ennemi partout; devant, derrière, et par les côtés; exactement la Vendée! mais heureusement que nous avons battu, à ce que nous croyons, les plus redoutables. 1°. Nous avons battu les Arabes. 2°. Les Mamelouks. 3°. Les Bédouins; presque tous cavalerie de petits chevaux

allant dans les montagnes comme dans la plaine. Les soldats se battent commes des Césars ; il a réellement fallu des soldats François pour les battre.

Nous nous sommes presque toujours battus en bataillon quarré ; trois jours de suite à marche forcée en bataillon quarré, différemment nous aurions été tous détruits. Dans le principe, il nous faisoit très-peu de prisonniers, et s'il y en avoit quelqu'uns qui échappâsent à la mort, ils étoient réservés pour leur passion brutale.

Le pays d'Alexandrie n'est qu'un pays de sable presque sans culture, où l'habitant mourroit de faim si les voisins ne leur en procuroient. L'habitant qu'on nomme les Arabes, sont comme les animaux pillant leur nation comme l'étranger, toujours les armes à la main, ne vivant que de rapines, toujours campés, menant avec eux tous leurs ménages. Leurs camps ne sont que grattés sur le sable ; aujourd'hui ils sont dans un endroit, demain dans l'autre.

Le Grand Turc est leur ennemi juré ; il n'a jamais pu les vaincre ; il a fallu des François : ils ne craignent nullement notre cavalerie ; à dire vrai, elle est très-peu nombreuse ; ils ne craignent que le canon ; ils tombent sur les coups de fusils comme le sanglier court sur le chasseur après qu'il est blessé ; ils n'ont pas de canons ; s'ils en avoient, il n'y auroit nulle nation pour les battre.

Nous avons resté plusieurs jours dans ce pays où nous n'avons trouvé ni eau, ni pain, ni aucune espèce de vivres, sans même pouvoir en tirer de nulle part : il nous est mort dans l'espace de cinq ou six jours, sans exagérer, de six à sept cens hommes, tous par la soif.

Ce pays de sable passé, nous arrivons du côté de la ville qu'on nomme le Grand Caire, pays très-riche par son commerce, et très-fertile en grain : c'est là que la grande bataille s'est donnée. Nous les avons en partie détruits, ou noyés ; ceux qui se sont échappés ont fui dans le Désert pour se rendre dans l'Egypte, ou du côté de Jerusalem. Nous les avons poursuivis jusque dans la Haute Egypte, où nous les avons en partie fini de détruire. Ceux qui ont pu fuir ont traversé le Désert pour se rendre du côté de la Barbarie ; j'ignore si nous les y poursuivrons.

Nous sommes très-réduits : avec cela il existe un mécontentement général dans l'armée : le despotisme n'a jamais été au point qu'il l'est aujourd'hui ; nous avons des soldats qui se sont donné la mort, en présence du Général en Chef, en lui disant, "voilà ton ouvrage !" — je ne puis t'en dire davantage ; la suite t'instruira du reste.

J'ose te prier, mon bon ami, à la lettre que tu recevras de mon frère, de vouloir bien passer ma malle à l'adresse qu'il te désignera ; elle sera peut-être, à celle de Dumoin à Auch. Enfin n'importe qu'elle soit.

Tu peux avoir ta retraite avant que nous ne rentrions en France : j'ignore quel est celui qui peut commander le dépôt. Il peut arriver que les effets se perdent ; juge pour moi quelle perte ! nous n'avons à espérer que de sortir de ce pays comme de petits saint Jeans. Il est dû aujourd'hui quatre mois d'appointemens ; nous craignons tous que nous ne soyons obligés d'en faire un don patriotique forcé pour le rétablissement de la perte de treize vaisseaux de ligne, et d'une vingtaine d'autres, soit frégates et autres bâtimens. Telle

est la récompense qui nous attend du fruit de nos travaux.

Tu pourras, mon ami, prendre un habit neuf dans ma malle qui m'a été fait à Liege, avec vingt-quatre livres en argent. Je pense que c'est ce que je puis te devoir ; si par cela il n'y en a pas assez, tu prendras ce qu'il te faudra, puis tu mettras le restant de l'argent dedans la malle ; tu la feras bien fisseler, tu cacheteras le dessus de la serrure en la remettant à la diligence : prend mes intérêts je t'en prie comme un ami.

Si Durand et Jenot sont avec toi dis leur bien des choses de ma part, et assure-les du bonheur qu'ils ont d'être dans leur patrie.

Assure bien de mes respects ta chère épouse, et embrasse mille fois ta famille pour moi, et crois-toi bien-heureux de n'être pas venu nous joindre en Italie.

Je suis pour la vie ton bon ami.

Rozis, *Capitaine.*

TRANSLATION.

Alexandria (23 Fructidor) September 9th.

ROZIS to his Friend GRIVET.

'Tis with great pleasure, my dear friend, that I send you the present, hoping that it will have the good fortune

to reach you, notwithstanding the prodigious difficulties we have been subjected to, since the unfortunate moment of the total destruction of our fleet.

While the land forces fight like so many lions, those of the fleet behaved like cowards! We ought not, indeed, by any means to blame the subaltern officers, the cannoneers, and some of the seamen; but the major part, together with the superior officers, certainly fought like traitors* to their country!

We inhabit a country with which we are all dissatis-

* A plain statement of the fact will shew with what justice the crews of the French ships are accused by their countrymen of acting like traitors on the first of August.

The following is a correct copy of the certificate given in by the surviving commissaries and officers of the French fleet, and recognized as authentic by the Government.

Number of men on board the thirteen vessels captured or destroyed in the engagement of the 1st of August (exclusive of the Hercules gun-boat)	-	-	-	-	8930	
Sent on shore by Lord Nelson in consequence of a cartel established between him and the Commandant of Alexandria, and acknowledged in the receipt of Capt. Barry, Commander of the Alceste	-	1605	}	3105	}	
Wounded, included in said cartel	-	1500				
Escaped from the Timoleon while she lay on shore (<i>these were murdered by the Arabs</i>)	-	350	}	3705		
Escaped from the Hercules (gun-boat)	-	50				
Officers, carpenters, caulkers, &c. detained by Lord Nelson	-	200				
Total destroyed	-				<hr/> 5225	

If to these we add the wounded, we shall find, that of 8930, of which the whole consisted, 6725, more than three-fourths, were killed and wounded in an action in which they are said, by this bloody-minded Captain, to have "behaved like traitors!" Rozis

fied, to a degree not to be conceived. IF THE TROOPS HAD BUT KNOWN WHAT IT WAS, BEFORE THEY QUITTED FRANCE, THEY WOULD HAVE PREFERRED DEATH A THOUSAND TIMES TO THE MISERY TO WHICH THEY NOW FIND THEMSELVES REDUCED. We have the enemy every where, before, behind, and on each side of us ; it is an exact counterpart of La Vendée. Happily, we have defeated the most formidable of them : 1, the Arabs ; 2, the Mameloucs ; 3, the Bedouins ; almost all cavalry, all mounted on active little horses, that run as swiftly up the mountains as along the plains. The troops fought like Cæsars, and, indeed, nothing less than French soldiers could have defeated such an enemy !

We were almost always obliged to engage, formed into squares. In this inconvenient order of battle we made three days forced march ; and, indeed, to have changed it would have been fatal to us all. The enemy made but few prisoners at first ; if they saved any from death, it was only to render them subservient to their brutal passions.

The country of Alexandria is merely a country of sand, devoid of all cultivation ; where the inhabitants would perish with hunger if they were not supplied with necessaries from the neighbouring districts. The natives who are called Arabs, are a sort of wild beasts, who pillage their own people as readily as strangers. They are always armed, live entirely on rapine, dwell

might (if he had pleased) have discovered a juster and much more reasonable cause of their defeat, in the superior skill and intrepidity of their enemies ; but, except in the affair of his trunk, he does not appear to have exerted any great portion of positive inquiry.

constantly in tents, and carry their whole household with them. When they wish to incamp, they just trace out a few lines on the sand; they are here to day, and there to-morrow.

The Grand Turk is their sworn enemy: he has never been able to subdue them; that was reserved for the French to accomplish. They are not in the least afraid of our cavalry: to say the truth, we have not much of it; they are only intimidated by our artillery: they rush upon our bayonets, as the wild boar does upon the hunters when he is wounded. They have no cannon; if they had, no nation on earth would be able to subdue them.

We were many days without water or bread, or victuals of any kind; and even without means of procuring any. In five or six days, I speak without exaggeration, we lost six or seven hundred men by thirst alone!!! Having passed the Desert, we reached the neighbourhood of the city called Grand Cairo, a country extremely rich by its commerce, and very fertile in grain. It was here that the great battle was fought; we killed or drowned a part of them; while those who escaped, fled into the Desert; some of them with the intent of reaching Egypt, others the neighbourhood of Jerusalem! We pursued them as far as Upper Egypt, where we, in some measure, completed their destruction;* as many as could escape, crossed the Desert with an intent of getting to Barbary. I have not yet learned whether we shall pursue them thither.

* Unless Rozis be in correspondence with Sir John Macpherson, who hoped the House would be in "some degree unanimous," we cannot account for his stumbling upon this expression. The precious traits of geographical knowledge which precede it,

We are exceedingly reduced in our numbers. Besides all this, there exists a general discontent in the army. Despondency was never at such a height before: we have had several soldiers who blew out their brains in the presence of the Commander in Chief, exclaiming to him, "Voilà ton ouvrage;" "THIS IS YOUR WORK!" I can go no farther, time will acquaint you with the rest.

I take the liberty, my good friend, of requesting you, as soon as you shall receive a letter from my brother, to forward my trunk to the place he shall direct; it will be, perhaps, to Dumoin's at Auch; but that is a matter of no consequence.

You will, perhaps, have retired from the army before our return; and, in that case, I shall not know who will have the charge of the dépôt. It may thus happen that my property may be lost; judge what a loss for me! The best thing we can venture to look forward to, is to quit this country like so many little St. Johns.* We are already four months pay in arrear; and we all fear that we shall be obliged to make a forced patriotic gift of it, towards re-establishing the thirteen sail of the line, and the twenty other vessels, frigates, &c. which we have unfortunately lost. Such is the recompence we expect, and such will be the fruit of all our labours!

we leave, without comment, to the admiration of our readers, contenting ourselves with recommending to their most serious notice, the paragraphs which follow, and which, as they merely relate to the objects of sense and feeling, we would as readily receive from Rozis as from any philosopher in the army.

* Meaning, we believe, NAKED; such being the manner in which the French had been accustomed, under the "old superstition, to see the infant saint represented in their churches.

You may take for yourself, my friend, from the trunk, a new coat, which was made for me at Liege, and a louis d'or in money. This, I think, is about what I owe you ; if it be not sufficient, take what will make it so ; then put the rest of the money in the trunk, cord it well, put a seal upon the lock, and see it safe in the diligence. Act for me in this case, I beseech you, like a friend.

If Durand and Jenot are with you, remember me kindly to them, and tell them how happy they are to be in their native country.

My respects to your wife : embrace your family for me a thousand times, and believe yourself the most fortunate of men, in not coming to join us in Italy.

Ever yours most sincerely,

ROZIS, *Capitaine.*

No. XXX.

A Alexandrie, le 4^e Vendémiaire, an 7^e.

Rozis à son Frère.

C'EST avec bien du plaisir, mon cher frère que je t'écris la présente, espérant qu'elle aura le bonheur de te parvenir malgré les grandes difficultés que nous éprouvons à pouvoir faire passer la mer à nos lettres, ou le désagrément et la perte que nous avons fait de toute notre escadre.

Dans ce moment les Anglois occupent toute la Méditerranée ; cela nous cause de désagréments de ne pouvoir donner de nos nouvelles en France, que par des vaisseaux des nations neutres, encore faut-il qu'ils se sauvent des Anglois pour passer, et s'ils sont pris ils les brûlent.

Nous sommes donc partis de Rome, comme je t'ai marqué dans ma dernière lettre de Civita Vecchia, l'heure de notre embarquement. Tu as bien dû t'apercevoir dans quelle situation j'étois : je t'assure que j'ai éprouvé des disgraces ; mais celle-là est la plus forte ; j'ai donc été forcé de partir d'une ville au moment de me voir heureux, d'épouser une femme charmante, avec beaucoup de bien, être obligé de partir sans l'espoir de plus la revoir. Jamais je ne trouverai pareil parti. Enfin, tel est mon sort !

Nous sommes donc partis sans savoir où nous devons

aller : arrivés devant l'isle de Malte, l'on nous dit qu'on vient dans cette isle pour faire le siège de la ville. Dans trois jours nous nous en rendons maîtres. Nous nous reposons pendant cinq ou six jours ; ce tems expiré, nous mettons voile au vent sans dire nullement à l'armée dans quel pays elle alloit. Nous voguons ainsi pendant dix-huit jours ; au bout de ce tems nous appercevons terre, et nous nous trouvons en face d'Alexandrie première ville de Turquie, rebelle au Grand Turc.

L'on nous débarque ; nous commençons à combattre contre des nations qu'on nomme des Arabes, des Mamelouks, et des Bédouins, nations les plus barbares. Les premiers jours ils ne faisoient pas de prisonniers : quand le Général Bonaparte vit cela, il leur envoya un manifeste en leur langue, pour leur signifier que s'ils tuoient nos prisonniers, il agiroit de représailles ; malgré cela, ils ont toujours continué.

Aujourd'hui nous sommes vainqueurs ; dans un affaire seule nous avons fait - - - ou tué près de dix mille, et les autres mis en fuite. Nous les poursuivons dans la Haute Egypte du côté de Jerusalem. J'ignore quelle y sera notre destinée.

J'ai à te dire, mon cher frère, que j'ai une malle entre les mains d'un de mes amis, maître tailleur de la demi-brigade. Je lui écris en même tems qu'à toi pour que cela n'éprouve pas de difficultés ; tu peux donc écrire en conséquence, et adresser ta lettre au Citoyen Grivet, maître tailleur au dépôt de la 88^{me} brigade au Fort Bareau proche Chambéry. Il te la fera passer à l'adresse que tu voudras. Pour cela je désirerai que tu te rende à Auch, pour prier de ma part le nommé -

Dumont fils aîné marchand, pour qu'il te donne les moyens nécessaires pour l'arrivée de ma malle, et dis lui bien des choses de ma part. Sois persuadé qu'il me rendra ce service; sois persuadé, mon cher frère, que ma malle vaut bien la peine qu'on la reclame; il n'y a dedans que du bon butin; tu y trouveras entre autre six louis d'or, une paire de boucles en argent, beaucoup de chemises, deux habits neuf, des vestes, des culottes de drap blanc, des gilets blancs, deux paires de bottes, des bas de fil et de coton, des bas de soie, beaucoup de mouchoirs de poche, et plusieurs autres choses. Tu garderas cela chez toi jusqu'à mon retour en France, si j'ai le bonheur d'y revenir; sans cela, tu en profiteras.

Si d'ici en plusieurs mois que tu apprend que la demi-brigade est rentrée en France, et que tu ne reçoive pas de mes nouvelles, tu peux écrire au conseil d'administration de la demi-brigade, pour lui réclamer ce dont je pourrois avoir, et si le tout arrive à bon port, tu donneras quatre louis d'or à Henriette, et quatre louis à Joseph, et toi, tu profiteras de l'autre part.

Assure bien de mes amitiés ta chère épouse, mes sœurs, et frères, et toute la famille, sans manquer ton secrétaire, et crois moi pour la vie,

Ton bon frère,

ROZIS, *Capitaine.*

TRANSLATION.

*Alexandria, September 25th.**Rozis to his Brother.*

'Tis with great pleasure, my dear brother, that I write you the present; hoping it will have the good fortune to reach you, in spite of the prodigious difficulties we find in sending or receiving a letter by sea, on account of the total destruction of our fleet.

The English are at this moment complete masters of the Mediterranean; we are reduced, therefore, to the disagreeable necessity of trusting all our correspondence with France to neutral vessels: even these can only hope to convey it, by escaping the vigilance of the English; for if they are taken they are burnt.

We were marched from Rome, as I wrote to you in my last letter from Civita Vecchia at the moment we were going on board the transports. You must have discovered the state of my mind from that letter. I have had misfortunes enough in my life, but never any, I can assure you, like that which I then experienced. I was forced to quit a charming girl, with a very pretty fortune, when I was on the point of being made happy.—Yes, obliged to leave her without any hope of ever seeing her again! I shall never find such another match! but what can be said?—'tis my hard fortune!

We went on board without knowing whither we were going. When we reached Malta we were told that our destination was to besiege that place, and in three days we made ourselves masters of it. We staid

PART II.

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there five or six days to recruit ourselves, and then put to sea, without the least information being given to the army with respect to the place of its future destination. We sailed for eighteen days, when we fell in with the land, and found ourselves before the city of Alexandria, the metropolis of Turkey, and in a state of open rebellion against the Grand Seignior! *

As soon as we were put on shore we began to fight against certain nations, known by the name of Bedouins: nations of the most barbarous kind. At first they made no prisoners. When General Bonaparte saw this, he sent them a Manifesto in their own language, informing them, that if they put their prisoners to death, he should be obliged to retaliate.—Notwithstanding this, they have not altered their conduct.

At present we are victorious. In one action alone we (*word illegible*) or killed near ten thousand, and having put the remainder to flight, pursued them into Upper Egypt, on the side of Jerusalem!!! I have not yet heard what will be our next expedition.

I must now inform you, my dear brother, that I have a trunk in the hands of one of my friends, a master tailor in the demi-brigade. I shall send to him

* We are almost weary of remarking on the gross ignorance of the officers of the French army; and yet it is impossible not to notice such passages as the above. Calling Alexandria the capital of Turkey is what we should have some difficulty in excusing in a follower of the camp; but when we find a Captain asserting that Alexandria was in a state of rebellion against the Porte, and in consequence of it actually destroying the Turks under the idea that he was obliging the Grand Seignior,—nous y perdons notre latin, and, indeed, our patience. Bonaparte seems to have formed a just estimate of the capacity of his officers, and to have made their unparalleled credulity the foundation of his own unparalleled assurance!

by this conveyance that you may have no difficulty in executing my commission. Write a letter, therefore, and direct it to Citizen Grivet, master-tailor to the depôt of the 88th brigade, Fort Bareau, near Chambéry. He will send the trunk wherever you order it. I would have you repair to Auch, call upon Dumont's eldest son (a merchant there) remember me kindly to him, and request him, in my name, to assist you in facilitating its arrival.—Be assured that he will render me this service—be assured, my dear brother, that the trunk is worth looking after. There is rare booty in it—You will find, among other things, six louis-d'ors, a pair of silver buckles, a number of shirts, two new coats, some waistcoats and breeches of white cloth, some white under-waistcoats, two pair of boots, several pair of thread and cotton stockings, some silk ones, a number of pocket handkerchiefs, and many other articles. These you will take charge of till my return to France; if I am ever happy enough to return there,—if not, apply them to your own use.

If you ever happen to hear that the demi-brigade is returned home, and, after a competent time, receive no letter from me, you may then write to the Council of Administration of the Brigade, for whatever belonged to me; and if it reaches you in safety, I would wish you to give four louis to Henrietta, and four to Joseph,—the rest keep for yourself.

Present my love to your dear wife, to my brothers and sisters, and to all the family, not forgetting your secretary.

I remain, ever yours affectionately,

Rozis, *Capt.*

No. XXXI.

† ΓΡΗΓΟΡΙΟΣ ἘΛΕΨΩ, ΘΕΟΥ ἈΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΟΣ
ΚΩΝΣΤΑΝΤΙΝΟΥΠΟΛΕΟΣ ΝΕΑΣ ῬΩΜΗΣ ΚΑΙ
ΟΙΚΟΥΜΕΝΙΚΟΣ ΠΑΤΡΙΑΡΧΗΣ.

Ἐντιμώτατοι Κληρικοὶ καὶ τιμιώτατοι Πρόκριτοι, καὶ λοιποὶ ἀπα-
ξάπαντες εὐλογημένοι Χριστιανοὶ τῆς Κερκύρας, Κεφαλληνίας, Ζακύνθου,
Τζιζιγίου, Ἰθάκης, καὶ ἁγίας Μάυρας, καὶ τῶν λοιπῶν, τέκνα ἐν Κυρίῳ
ἀγαπητὰ τῆς ἡμῶν μετριότητος, χάρις εἴη ὑμῖν ἅπασι, καὶ εἰρήνη, καὶ
ἰλιος παρὰ Θεοῦ Κυρίου παντοκράτορος, παρ' ἡμῶν δὲ εὐχὴ, εὐλογία,
καὶ συγχώρησις. Ὁ ποιητὴς καὶ ἀρχικάκος ὄφιν ἀφ' ἧς δολίως ἐπλά-
νισαι τὴν ἀνδρώτητα μὲ πολυειδέϊς ἀπάτας καὶ τρόπους διὰ τὰ τῶν
σύρη εἰς τὴν ἀπώλειαν, τιλευτᾶιον εἰς τὰς ἐσχάτους τέτρες αἰῶνας,
ἐπιποήσας τὸ γένος τῶν Γάλλων δικτικώτερον τῆς ποιηρίας, ἔχουσι δαφι-
λῶς εἰς τὰς ψυχὰς αὐτῶν τὸν ἰὸν τῆς ἀπογασίας πρὸς τὸν Θεόν, καὶ
ἀφ' ἧς τὴν εἴφειν εἰς μίαν ἀλληλομαχίαν καὶ εἰς ἰλισην βασιλοκτοσίαν,
τότε ἀμέσως τὴν ἔρριψι καὶ εἰς παντιλῇ ἀδείαν καὶ ἀσέβειαν. Καὶ
τῆτο, ἀφ' ἧς ἡ ἀνωτάτω πρόνοια τῷ Θεῷ ἀπὸ ἄκραι φιλανδρωπίας δι-
ἀφῆκεν τὸ γένος τῶν ἀνθρώπων ἀπροσώτοι καὶ ἀπερίσκεπτοι, ἀλλὰ τὸ
περιώρισι μὲ νόμως πνευματικὸς διὰ τὰ τὸ περισφίγγη εἰς τὴν τῷ Θεῷ
ἵπποταγὴν, καθὼς τῇ γόμα τῷ Θεῷ λαλεῖ διὰ τῇ προφητάνακτος
Δαβὶδ, „ Δύχρος τοῖς ποσίμῃ ὁ νόμος σε καὶ φῶς ταῖς τρίβοις μου, καὶ
τὸ συνίδισι μὲ πολιτικὸς ὅρας καὶ βασιλικὰς διοικήσεις διὰ τὰ περιφρε-
ρῆται ἡ ἀνδρωπότης ἐξ ἀμφοτέρων ψυχικῶς μὲν διὰ τῶν θείων νόμων
τῆς θεοσιείας καὶ τῆς πίστεως, σωματικῶς δὲ μὲ τὴν διοίκησιν τῶν
βασιλικῶν διοπισμάτων. ὥσαν ὅπῃ προγνωρίζει ἡ θεία δικαιοσύνη καὶ
φιλανδρωπία, ὅτι ἡ ἀνδρωπότης ἐκτραχηλίζεται εὐκόλως εἰς ἀνωδίας
ἐκσυνεργίας τῇ διαβόλῃ, καὶ ἀμνημονεῖ τὸ φῶς τῆς διογνωσίας. διὰ
τῆτο κατέστησι τὰς ἐπιγίως βασιλείας διὰ τὰ βασιλῆς ἐν κημῷ καὶ
χαλινῷ, κατὰ τὸν Δαβὶδ, τὴν ἀνδρώπως εἰς τὴν ὀρεδότητα καὶ εὐταξί-
αν. Οἱ βασιλεῖς ὅν κατὰ μίμψιν τῷ Θεῷ εἰσὶ διωρισμένοι εἰς τὴν

περιγίνοιον τῶτον κόσμον διὰ τὰ γυμνάζουσι τὴν ἀνδρώπην εἰς ὑποταγὴν,
 καὶ τὰ ἀναχαιτίζουσι τὰς ὁρμὰς τῆς κακίας μὴ τὴν δοθῆσαν εἰς αὐτὴς
 ἐξουσίαν παρὰ Θεῦ, δι' αὐτὴ γὰρ βασιλεῖς βασιλεύουσι, καὶ εἰκὴ τὴν
 μάχαιραν ἢ φορεῖσιν, ἀποφάνηται ὁ Θεὸς Ἀπόστολος Παῦλος, ἀλλ'
 εἰς ἔπαινον τῶν ἀγαθοποιῶν, ἐκδίκησιν δὲ τῶν κακοποιῶν, ὅτι ἂν ἔλιπει
 ἡ βασιλικὴ ἐξουσία οἱ ἄνθρωποι ὡς ἐπιρρεπῆς εἰς τὴν κακίαν, ἔγκηται
 γὰρ ἡ διάνοια τῷ ἀνθρώπῳ ἀπὸ νεότητος ἐπὶ τὰ ποιητὰ, ἔμειλλον γὰρ
 κατεξανίστανται ὁ εἰς κατὰ τὴν ἰτέραν, ὡς τὰ ἀναστατωθῇ τὸ πᾶν, καὶ
 ἡ ἀνδρωπότης γένῃ ἕνας κυκίων. Καὶ δι' αὐτὸ τῶτο ὁ ποιητὴς διά-
 βολος διὰ τὰ φέρῃ τὴν ἀνδρωπότητα εἰς μίαν ἀκαταστασίαν, ἣτις
 προέρχεται ἐκ τῆς ἀταρχίας, ὡς καὶ ἡ φιλοσοφία πρεσβεύει, ἐκίνησε
 τὴν Γάλλῃς εἰς βασιλοκτονίαν καὶ παρὰ χρεῖμα ἀπειδείχθη φανερώς
 τὴν διαβολὴν τὸ σκοπεύμενον, ὅτι ἀφαίρεισιν ἀπὸ τὰς ψυχὰς αὐτῶν καὶ
 τὴν πρὸς Θεὸν ὑποταγὴν, οἵτινες διὰ τὰ ἐκλύσωσιν εὐκόλως τὴν ἀνδρω-
 πωτος εἰς τὴν ἀσέβειαν ταύτην ὑπέκρυψαν τὴν πρὸς Θεὸν ἀποστασίαν, μὴ
 τὸ δέλεαρ τῆς ἐλευθερίας καὶ μὴ τὴν πρότασιν τῆς ὁμοιότητος καὶ
 ἰσότητος. καὶ ἀφ' ἧ κατεπάτησαν τὴν θειοφάνειαν τῆς θεοσεβείας τῶν,
 ἠδύτησαν ἅμα καὶ τὴν ὁρμὴν τῆς φιλίας, ὡς εἶδομεν προφανῶς τὰς ἀντα-
 ποκρίσεις ὅπῃ ἔδειξαν καὶ εἰς τὴν Ὀθωμανικὴν Κραταίαν ταύτην βα-
 σιλείαν, ἣτις καὶ ἐν καιρῷ ἀνάγκης δὲν ἀπεσγράφη αὐτὴς. Αὐτοὶ δὲ
 ἐξ ἐναντίας ἐφάνησαν προφανῆς ἀντικείμενοι, καὶ δολίως μὴ διάφορα
 γράμματα ἀπατηλὰ ἠθέλησαν τὰ ἐνοχλήσιν τὴν βασιλείαν ταύτην,
 καὶ τὰ διεγείρῃ τὴν ὑποκειμένην λαὸς τῆς εἰς ἀκαταστασίαν καὶ ἀνταρ-
 σίαν ὡς τὰ ἀποτελέσματα εἶναι ἀλληλομαχία φονοκτονία, καὶ λοιπὰ.
 ἐφ' οἷς ὁ διάβολος χάρει, καὶ ἀγωνίζεται ἐξ ἀρχῆς εἰς αὐτὰ τὰ κα-
 τατήσῃ τὴν ἀνδρωπότητα. καὶ ὕστερα ἀπὸ τούτης δολιότητος ἐποίησαν
 προφανῶς καὶ τὴν ληστρικὴν αὐτῶν ἔφοδον εἰς Ἀιγύπτου. ὅθεν καὶ διὰ
 τῶτο ἡ κραταία βασιλεία αὕτη δικαίως ἐκήρυξε πόλεμον διὰ ξηρᾶς καὶ
 θαλάσσης κατ' αὐτῶν διὰ τὰ ἐκδικηθῇ τῇ Θεῷ συνάρσει αὐτὴς τὴν
 ἐλιττήρας τῆς ἀνδρωπότητος, τὴν ἀντάρτα τῇ Θεῷ, καὶ τὴν λυμῶνας
 τῆς κοινῆς εὐταξίας καὶ εἰρήνης. Καὶ ἐπὶ τούτῳ αὐτῷ συνικάλει καὶ
 συμμάχως ἰσχυρὸς βασιλεῖς τὸν τῆς Ῥωσίας, καὶ Βρετανίας τὴν καὶ
 ὁμοφρονούντας εἰς αὐτὸν τὸν ἑνδιον σκοπὸν, διὰ τὰ λυτρώσωσι τὴν ἀνδρω-
 πότητα ἀπὸ τὰ μέλλοντα κακὰ, καὶ τὰ διατηρήσωσι εἰς τὴν οὐκ ἐκείνην
 τὰς βασιλικὰς διοικήσεις ἐν τοῖς ὁρίοις αὐτῶν. ὅθεν ἡ Ὀθωμανοκρα-

κοβρετανική ἀρμάδα ἔρχεται εἰς τὰ μέρη ταῦτα ὅχι κατὰ τῶν νήσων αὐτῶν καὶ τῶν ἐγκατοίκων, ἢ νὰ ὑποτάξῃ αὐτῆς. ἀλλὰ μᾶλλον διὰ νὰ ὑποσηρίξῃ αὐτῆς εἰς τὴν ἀληθῆ ἐλευθερίαν, καὶ νὰ τῆς ἀπαλλάξῃ τῆ ζυγῆ καὶ τῆς τυραννίδος εἰς ἃ ἀκυσίως ὑπέπεσον, καὶ νὰ τῆς ἀπολυτρώσῃ ἀπὸ τὴν μέλλουσιν ἀσέβειαν καὶ ἀθείαν ὅπῃ κατ' ὀλίγον ὀλίγον ἡ λύμη τῶν Γάλλων θέλει μετὰδώσει ἀνεπαισθήτως εἰς αὐτῆς, καὶ εἰς τῆς αὐτῶν ἀπογόνους. Λοιπὸν ἐπειδὴ ἡ Ἐκκλησία τῆ Χριστοῦ προνοεῖ τῆς σωτηρίας τῶν ἀνθρώπων, καὶ δεέται ἀενάως ὑπὲρ πάντων, μᾶλλον δὲ ὑπὲρ βασιλέων, καὶ ὑπὲρ πάντων τῶν ἐν ὑπεροχῇ ὄντων, κατὰ τὸν θεῖον ἀπόστολον. διὰ τῆτο διὰ προσαγῆς τῆς κραταιᾶς ταύτης βασιλείας διακηρύττομεν εἰς ὅλης τῆς ὀρθοδόξης τῆς κατοικούντας ἐν ταῖς νήσοις Κερκύρας, Κεφαλληνίας, Ζακύνθου, Ἰθάκης, Τζιρίγης, ἀγίας Μάυρας, καὶ τῶν λοιπῶν, ὅτι θέλησις, σκοπὸς καὶ ἀπόφασις τῶν συμμαχούντων βασιλέων, ὡς προείπομεν, εἶναι, διὰ νὰ ὑπερασπισθῶσι τῆς ὅρας τῆς ἀληθείας καὶ κοινῆς εὐταξίας καὶ εἰρήνης, καὶ νὰ ἐκδικηθῶσι τῆς ἀντικειμένους καὶ δολιοτρόπως Γάλλους, οἵτινες μὲ τὰ νάματα τὰ ἰοβόλα τῆς νομιζομένης ἐλευθερίας ἐγγράφως τε καὶ ἀγράφως προσπαθῶσι νὰ ἀπατήσωσι τῆς ἀνθρώπου, καὶ νὰ τῆς κρημίνωσιν εἰς τὰ ἐσθρα τῆς κακίας καὶ ἀποασίας. Καὶ προτρέπομεν πάντας ὑμᾶς ὡς γνήσια μέλη τῆς Ἐκκλησίας τῆ Χριστοῦ, καὶ ζηλωτὰς ἀνέκαθεν τῶν ὀρθῶν δογμάτων τῆς πίστεως τῆς εὐταξίας καὶ ευνομίας, ὅπως ἅμα τῷ λαβεῖν τὴν ἡμετέραν Πατριαρχικὴν ταύτην ἐπιστολὴν, εὐθὺς ἀποδιώξητε ἀπὸ τὰς νύκτας ὑμῶν αὐτῆς τῆς ἀποστάτης τῆ Θεοῦ, καὶ ὑπάλως τυράννης τῆς ἀνδρωπότητος. καὶ ἐνήμενοι μὲ τὰς συμμαχούσας δυνάμεις νὰ συναγωνισθῆτε καὶ ὑμεῖς μὲ ζῆλον καὶ προθυμίαν εἰς ἀφανισμόν τῶν ἀπίστων τῶν Γάλλων διὰ νὰ ἀξιώσῃτε παρὰ Θεοῦ μὲν ἐλέος, παρὰ δὲ ταύτης τῆς Κραταιᾶς βασιλείας νὰ ἀπολαύσῃτε τῆς ἐλευθερίας, καὶ ἔτι πρὸς τῶν ἀρχαίων προνομίων σας ἐσόμενοι ἐλεύθεροι εἰς τὸ ἐξῆς πλεόν ἢ εἰς κάθε ἄλλον καιρὸν. Πληροφορεῖμεν ἔν ὑμᾶς διὰ προσαγῆς καὶ βελῆς ἀμεταθέτε τῆς κραταιᾶς ταύτης βασιλείας, ὅτι θέλετε

ἔχει καὶ πληρεξουσιότητα εἰς τὸ νὰ ἐκλεξήτε ὅποιον τρόπον διοικήσεως θέλετε κρίνῃ εὐλογον πρὸς τὸ συμφέρον τῆς πατρίδος σας ἢ τὸν τρόπον δηλαδὴ τῆς ἀριστοκρατικῆς διοικήσεως τῆς Ραγύζης, ἢ ὅποιον ἄλλον τρόπον βεληθῇτε. Ὅθεν μὲ τὸ νὰ γνωρίζωμεν ἡμεῖς καὶ ἐσμὲν πεπληροφορημένοι ἀναμφιβόλως, ὅτι ἡ διακήρυξις τῆς πολέμου τῆς κατὰ τῶν Γάλλων εἶναι δικαιοτάτη. Καὶ ὁ σκοπὸς τῶν τριῶν τέτων Δυναμέων εἶναι ἔνθεος καὶ σωτήριος τοῖς ἀνθρώποις. Καὶ ἡ ἀπόφασις αὐτῶν περὶ τῶν νήσων τέτων τῶν ὑποπεσόντων εἰς χεῖρας τῶν Γάλλων ἐξ ἀπάτης εἶναι διὰ νὰ τὰς ἀπολυτρώσωσιν ἀπὸ τὴν λύπην τῆς γαλλικῆς δολιότητος, ἢ μᾶλλον εἰπεῖν ἀδείας, καὶ ὅχι διὰ ἄλλο τί, προκαταλαμβάνοντες πατρικῶς συμβελεύομεν καὶ ἐνισχύομεν πάντας ὑμᾶς μὲ τὴν χάριν τῆς παναγίας Πνεύματος, καὶ σὰς παραθάρρυνομεν ἀνενδιάσως ὡς αὐτοκίνητοι νὰ συνακολουθήσητε εἰς τὸν ἔνθεον σκοπὸν τῶν εἰρημένων Δυναμέων, διὰ νὰ ἀπολάυσῃτε βεβαίως καὶ ἀδυσάκτως τῆς ποθημένης ἐλευθερίας σας, καὶ νὰ συζήσητε εἰς τὸ ἐξῆς μὲ πολιτικὴν ευνομίαν καὶ διοικησιν, ἥτης θέλει εἶναι πρὸς Θεὸν ἀρετὴ, καὶ τὰς ἀπογόνους ὑμῶν σωτήριος, καὶ κλίμαξ τῆς αἰωνίας ζωῆς καὶ μελλούσης μακαριότητος. Καὶ ταῦτα μὲν εὐχετικῶς. ἡ δὲ τῆς Θεῆς χάρις, καὶ ἡ εὐχὴ, καὶ ἡ εὐλογία τῆς ἡμῶν μετιότητος εἴη μετὰ πάντων ὑμῶν.

Ἐν Μηνὶ Σεπτεμβρίῳ Ἰνδικιῶνος Ρ.

TRANSLATION.

GREGORY, *by the Grace of God Metropolitan of Constantinople (New Rome), and Œcumenical Patriarch.*

MOST dear and honoured Clergy and Nobility, and summarily, all ye Christians of Corfou, Cephalonia, Zante, Cerigo, Ithaca, Saint Maure, &c. our beloved children in the Lord! grace be unto you all, and peace and mercy from the Lord God Almighty; and from us prayer, blessing, and indulgence.

The serpent, the origin of all ill, who first beguiled mankind by various frauds and illusions, that he might draw them to perdition, perceiving in these latter days, that the French nation was more capable of wickedness than any other, has poured without measure into their souls the poison of apostacy; and having first instigated them to civil war, and barbarous regicide, has finally plunged them into every species of impiety and ungodliness. This mischief he has effected, notwithstanding the supreme wisdom of God, and his love to mankind, had never left them unprotected by his providence, but had regulated them by spiritual laws, in order to keep them in obedience to God (as he spoke by the mouth of the Royal Prophet; “Thy law is a lamp to my feet, “and a light to my path”); and had also bound them by political institutions, and kingly governments, that they might be preserved from a two-fold evil,—spiritually, by the divine laws of religious worship; and temporally, by the institutes of regal authorities.

For since the Divine Mercy foresaw that human nature was prone to remissness of duty, and forgetful of the light of divine knowledge, he appointed earthly monarchs to keep them (according to David) in the paths of virtue and good order. Kings, therefore, as the representatives of God, are distributed through this lower world, to exercise men in the practice of obedience, and to preserve them from the paths of error, through the authority intrusted to them by HIM "through whom kings reign." The holy Apostle Paul declares, "that THEY do not bear the sword in vain, but for the praise of well-doers, and the punishment of such as do evil;" so that if kingly power were taken away, mankind falling precipitately into wickedness ("for the thought of man is prone to evil from his youth"), would rise up one against another, and the world would become a chaos of misery.

Knowing this, the wicked one, that he might bring mankind to that state of confusion which always follows a want of government (as right philosophy also teaches), stirred up the French to murder their king; then was made manifest his purpose, in seducing their minds from obedience to God. But these French, that they might draw all the world to their own impiety, concealed their revolt from God under the specious bait of Liberty, and the pretext of a perfect Equality. And when they afterwards proceeded to trample under foot all the duties of their religion, they set at nought all the treaties of alliance, as we clearly see by their ungrateful conduct to the Ottoman Porte, which, in the time of their necessity had never deserted them. They, on the contrary, shewed themselves openly hostile, and with subtle and designing publications, craftily attempted to

trouble this empire, and force its subjects into anarchy and rebellion, of which the consequences are, civil war, murder, pillage, &c.:—and finally, after all these artifices, they have made, in the face of the world, a piratical attempt upon Egypt; on account of which, this mighty empire has justly declared war against them by land and by sea, that by the Divine Assistance, it may punish these destroyers of mankind, these aliens from God, and these perturbators and pests of the general peace and good order of the world.

And for this purpose, our mighty Emperor has called in his powerful allies, the Monarchs of Russia and Great Britain, who having the same righteous end in view with himself, will co-operate with him in freeing mankind from the impending evils, and preserving the administrations of regal power, with all its constituted authorities.

WHEREFORE, the fleets of the three allied powers will speedily come into your parts, not against the Islands and their inhabitants, to subdue them, but rather to strengthen them in true liberty, to break the yoke of tyranny under which they have unwillingly fallen, and to redeem them from the impending impiety and atheism with which the contagious example of the French threatens speedily, very speedily, to infect them and their posterity.

Finally, since the Church of Christ watches for the salvation of mankind, and prays without ceasing for all, but particularly for Kings, and for those who are in authority under them (according to the Apostle). WE, therefore, by the command of this government, declare to all the orthodox inhabitants of the Islands of Corfou, Cephalonia, Zante, Ithaca, Cerigo, St. Maure, &c. that the sole

will, intent, and purpose, of the allied powers is to extend the shield of their protection over the boundaries of truth and good order, and peace; and to punish those hostile and insidious French, who, with the poisonous streams of their pretended Liberty, endeavour, by speaking and writing, to deceive mankind, and to precipitate them into the abyss of wickedness and apostacy. And WE exhort you all, as true members of the Church of Christ, and zealous for the pure doctrine of faith, and harmony, and obedience, on the receipt of this our Patriarchal Epistle, to drive forthwith from your Islands, those apostates from God, those pernicious tyrants of mankind; and co-operating with the Allied Powers, to assist personally, with promptitude and zeal in the discomfiture of those faithless French; that so ye may render yourselves worthy of the Divine Mercy, and obtain from the Sublime Porte a liberty surpassing even that of your ancient polity; for we promise that ye shall henceforth enjoy more freedom than at any former time. WE therefore declare unto you, by the command and unchangeable will of our Monarch, that ye shall have full power to select whatever form of government ye shall judge most conducive to the benefit of your country,—either the aristocratical constitution of Ragusa, or any other that may please you better. For OURSELVES, knowing, and being fully and unequivocally convinced, that the present declaration of war against the French is most just; and farther, that the scope and design of the Allied Powers is truly the deliverance of mankind; and that their intention, with respect to these Islands, which have fallen into the hands of the French by treachery, is to rescue them from the curse of Gallic craftiness, or, to speak more truly, impiety, and nothing

else ; WE do, therefore, in our fatherly care, earnestly beseech and exhort you all, by the Grace of the Holy Spirit, to concur personally, and with one accord, in the laudable design of the aforesaid Powers ; that so ye may be firmly and immoveably possessed of the desired liberty ; and that ye may henceforth abide in that political harmony, and good government, which will be pleasing to God, salutary to your posterity, and finally lead to eternal life, and a happy futurity. This is the sum of OUR wishes. The Grace of God, and the prayers and blessings of our spiritual jurisdiction, be upon you all!

The *Ινδικτιών*, by which the Patriarch dates, is an epoch containing a cycle, or revolution of fifteen years ; which, when expired, begins anew, and thus goes on without intermission. According to the usual method of reducing it to our era, *Ινδικτιώνος Ἐν Μηνὶ Σεπτεμβρίῳ Β*, should mean, *September the 2d, 1798, the first year of the Indiction.*

THE END.

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